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TIMES DEBATE

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THE TIMES

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45p

'Timebomb' clause poses new threat to Maastricht

Just when ratification of the Maastricht treaty was seeming more likely, a new social chapter amendment has led to further confusion

By Philip Webster and Nicholas Wood

A NEW obstacle to the ratification of the Maastricht treaty was built last night when it emerged that MPs may be able to vote on its social provisions even after the treaty bill has become law.

The latest twist in the Maastricht saga came after Michael Morris, the deputy speaker, ruled that there would be no vote on amendment 27, which deals with the social chapter, and on which the government faced almost certain defeat.

Instead, MPs are to be given a fresh opportunity to debate the chapter and to vote on another amendment — number 75. That says the treaty should not be ratified before a specific Commons vote on whether Britain should, after all, accept the

Commons votes in favour of this clause, the government faces a dilemma as to whether it continues with the Bill or drops the whole thing. We want to see the treaty go through, but with the social chapter. Our view is that, faced with going into a brick wall, the government will reluctantly say that they will have the treaty, but with the social chapter, if that is the only way they can get a majority in Parliament.

George Robertson, Labour's foreign affairs spokesman, said: "Amendment 75 puts the government back on the hook they got off when the Attorney-general announced his ruling on amendment 27."

That clause has dominated much of Westminster life recently, provoking a storm when Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-general, ruled that ratification of the treaty would not be prevented even if the amendment were passed. The deputy speaker's announcement yesterday that the amendment would not now be put to the vote was received with confusion, dark mutterings of a "stitch-up" between the two front benches, and allegations of government pressure on Mr Morris.

Dennis Skinner, Labour MP for Bolsover, said he "smelt a rat", and it appeared to have thrown the Tory rebels into disarray. They defied Labour to challenge it, and Roger Knapman, MP for Stroud, said: "In the meantime, the government should make Michael Morris a duke — at least."

Labour later contended that the Conservative Euro-sceptics could vote for amendment 75 with a clear conscience, saying that when the final vote came in the autumn, they would have a chance to force the prime minister to decide between a treaty containing the social chapter or no treaty at all. John Major is on record as saying he would not ratify a treaty including the chapter.

But last night there were clear differences in the rebel camp. Mr Knapman said of the new amendment: "There is nothing in that for us. We do not want the social chapter incorporated. I cannot think that any of us would be tempted to vote for it." Sir Teddy Taylor, however, predicted that the rebels would support amendment 75 because it provided only for a later vote on the social chapter. "Our difficulty will come then."

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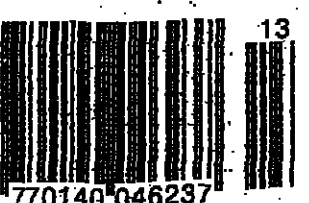
EC's rules on working hours and conditions. The new clause, which will be taken at the end of the committee stage of the bill, was described by its Labour architect last night as a "ticking timebomb".

Labour immediately hailed the amendment, and the Liberal Democrats also indicated that they would support it. The government is to seek legal advice and Conservative rebels, who had planned to back the more ambiguous amendment 27, were last night holding an emergency meeting on tactics. Some appeared unhappy about being pushed into a "position of having to vote explicitly for the chapter, which is universally despised by Tories in the hope of suppressing the treaty."

Stephen Byers, the Labour MP for Wallasey who tabled the amendment, said it had thrown the government into some turmoil. "It will be a timebomb ticking at the heart of the legislation. The government has been running away from a vote on the issue. If the

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Oscar bravo: Emma Thompson greets supporters in the Los Angeles audience after collecting her best-actress award

Thompson tops Britain's Oscar triumph

THE beleaguered British film industry yesterday offered heartfelt congratulations to Emma Thompson, who won the best actress award as Britain carried off five Oscars in Los Angeles.

Miss Thompson was rewarded for her portrayal of Margaret Schlegel in the Merchant-Ivory adaptation of *Howards End*, a distillation of Britishness. As she received the statuette from co-star Sir Anthony Hopkins, Miss Thompson

mouthed "Oh my God!" She dedicated the award to "the heroism and the courage of women".

The *Crying Game*, the controversial Neil Jordan film about IRA terrorism and transsexuality, took best original screenplay Oscar. The film, which had a lukewarm reception here, is expected to pass the \$50 million mark at the American box office this weekend. Britain's fifth Oscar went to Tim Rice

for Best Original Song — *Whole New World* from the Disney film *Aladdin*. An emotional Al Pacino won the best actor category for his portrayal of a blind man in *Scent of a Woman*. Best film and best director went to Clint Eastwood for the cowboy movie *Unforgiven*.

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Times brings world chess championship to London

By Daniel Johnson, Literary Editor

THE TIMES has secured the Kasparov-Short world chess championship match by offering the largest prize fund in the history of chess, enabling the first British challenge in more than a century to take place on home territory.

The Russian world chess champion, Gary Kasparov, and his British challenger, Nigel Short, last night accepted a £1.7 million bid from *The Times* to stage their 24-game championship match at a London hotel next September.

Peter Stothard, Editor of *The Times*, said last night: "This is a great day in the history of a great game. *The Times* was determined that Britain should host the historic bid by Nigel Short to become world champion. I am very proud that the contest will be for 'The Times World Chess Championship' and that *Times* readers will get the best ringside seat at this dramatic event."

The match will be run by *The Times*'s co-sponsor, the Dutch communications firm Teleworld. A statement sent to the *Times* on behalf of Short and Kasparov ended months of negotiation. In Helsinki last night, Gary Kasparov hailed the agreement as a triumph: "We are going to have a great championship. *The Times* will be a credibility card for us in this venture. It is a great success for chess, because for the first time in history we will be tied to a great name. This co-operation will change the future history of chess."

He had discussed the decision many times with Nigel Short, who is playing in a tournament at Monaco, and they are in total agreement. "It is the only way to fight for the future of chess," he said.

Last month both players decided to play their match outside the auspices of the international chess federation

(Fide), and invited new bids. Fide has refused to recognize the match, and plans its own between Anatoly Karpov, the Russian former champion, and the Dutch grandmaster, Jan Timman. Both have recently been beaten by both Short and Kasparov.

Negotiations for the Short-Kasparov match were thrown into disarray last month when the Fide president, Florencio Campomanes, said the match would be held in Manchester, against Kasparov's wishes and without consulting Short. The two players then took the



Short: fighting for world title in London

unprecedented decision to break away from Fide, which has run the world championship since 1947, and to form a new body called the Professional Chess Association.

Among senior grandmasters the action by the two players has met with a mixed response. Yesterday the British champion, Julian Hodgson, criticised Short's behaviour as unbelievable.

The agreement between Kasparov and Short and *The Times* is certain to give a boost to the attempt to build a new structure to stage the world championship.

New clashes loom in fishing war

By Michael Hornsby

FEARS of new clashes in the dispute over fishing rights around the Channel Islands rose yesterday as the British government and Guernsey officials repudiated the informal truce agreed between the warring trawlers.

The Royal Navy minesweeper HMS *Brocksby* was on standby to head off any French trawlers trying to fish in disputed waters south of Alderney from which all but a few have been banned since September under an agreement between the British and French governments.

In the Commons, the prime minister condemned as totally unacceptable the attacks by French fishermen and farmers in recent weeks on cargoes

of British food and fish at ports and markets. "We look to them to restore order, to bring the perpetrators to book and guarantee unfettered access," he said.

David Harris, Tory MP for St Ives, who represents many West Country fishermen, invited the prime minister to make clear that the Royal Navy would "not stand idly by" if there was an attempt to repeat the incidents last weekend, in which French fishermen abducted three naval officers and boarded a patrol. Continued on page 2, col 6

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Hollick and Foot leave the Mirror

By Alexandra Frean
Media Correspondent

LORD Hollick, the millionaire Labour peer, resigned last night from the board of Mirror Group Newspapers. Moments later Paul Foot, the award-winning journalist and star columnist of the *Daily Mirror*, announced that he was leaving the tabloid daily.

Lord Hollick, who is managing director of MAL, the financial services group, issued a terse statement indicating that the *Mirror*'s management had failed to dispel his concerns about "governance and policy matters". Continued on page 2, col 8

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Italian president rejects talk of coup

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

BRUSHING aside speculation that Italy may be facing a military coup, President Scalfaro yesterday began consultations to replace the scandal-stricken government of the prime minister, Giuliano Amato, as the finance minister, Franco Reviglio, resigned.

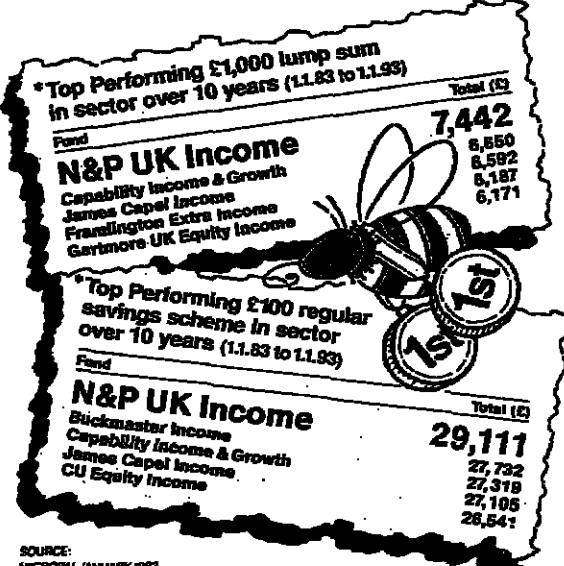
Signor Amato told the president he was ready to resign once a stronger government had been arranged that could cope with the corruption scandal, political sources said. A short time later Signor Reviglio resigned after a warning from Judge Antonio Di Pietro, leader of the scandal enquiry, that he was under investigation on suspicion of receiving stolen goods when chairman of the state-run energy con-

cern ENI. Signor Scalfaro held talks with the speakers of the two houses of parliament, and in a dramatic statement to the nation called on Italians to act responsibly and pledged support for magistrates investigating the corruption.

The Christian Democrat head of state went out of his way to deny rumours, most recently by a leader of the devolutionist Lombardy League, Gianfranco Miglio, of discontent within the armed forces and a possible military coup. "The republic is sound in its institutions," he said, "which cannot be put in question by tenuous rumours of unfounded suspicions."

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MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Baton-charged by an angry dame

Rubbish! shouted Dame Elaine Kellett-Bowman at John Smith, her fearsome eyebrows beetling up and down.

She had already shouted "rubbish" repeatedly at almost every Labour MP, so there was no special significance in her adding the Opposition leader to her list. Let us not mince words: this dame was angry. Dame Elaine (C. Lancaster) was having one of her violent days. She had been in explosive mood since morning.

We first caught up with her before lunch, in the Jubilee Room. She was at a rally of her favourite trade union, the Police Federation. The mood had turned vicious. Let me explain...

The federation is lobbying MPs for the equipping of officers with the "side-handled baton". This is an enormous truncheon with a big, fist-sized joystick sticking out at right angles for extra grip. It is the weapon the Los Angeles police made famous in the beating of Rodney King. In the half-light it looks like a sub-machine gun.

Not long ago, trials were under way to see whether it was a suitable addition to British police officers' standard weaponry.

The home secretary stopped the trials. He had some harebrained notion that the traditional image of the British bobby might suffer if officers started waving these things around, and decided to call a halt. The police federation is indignant.

Yesterday, hoping to appeal over the home secretary's head to backbench MPs, the federation mounted an exhibition for members of both houses, issuing an explanatory leaflet describing the benefits not only of the side-handled baton, but also of "Cap-Stun" (registered trademark of ZARC International Inc) made from "Oleoresin Capsicum," an extract of cayenne pepper converted into an aerosol spray. Extract of cayenne pepper sounds like the kind of thing Dame Elaine would favour as a cologne, but sadly I missed any demonstration of this.

I arrived in time to watch a policeman ("Peter") and a wpc ("Jacquie") perform, for MPs, a floor-show involving the side-handled baton. Muscle-bound Peter was in black leather arm-pads and reinforced leather breast-plate. Trim young Jacquie, hair in a chic close-crop, was in crisp white blouse and uniform. They took turns in twisting each other's arms, spinning one another to the floor, and choking each other.

MPs and peers, middle-aged and paunchy, sat gawping and grunting like ageing voyeurs, as the show progressed. And, in a ring-side seat she had commandeered, sat the Dame, wearing three badges. She looked absolutely transfixed. As Jacquie struck Peter in the throat she rocked with excitement. "Want to see that again?" asked the ringmaster.

"Now," he continued, "let's see how she copes with the long, straight baton." The Dame sat bolt upright. Jacquie pinned Peter to the floor by his neck. Elaine licked her lips. Her eyebrows began to beetle uncontrollably.

They were still beetling when she arrived at education questions, shouting, in sequence, "not," "rubbish!," "no," "not your constituency," "complete rubbish!" and "has it heck!" at Labour MPs and education spokesmen. When John Smith arrived with a crackpot question about the film industry, she began to writhe. Shouts of "rubbish!" flew thick and fast.

She was plainly unsettled. Surely scenes of gratuitous violence should be kept from the elderly and suggestible? Dame Elaine is 68.

Scuffles break out as police struggle to keep rival demonstrators apart



Divide and rule: a pro-choice demonstrator being arrested yesterday. Police averted violence by moving on the pro-choice group before the anti-abortionists arrived

Eleven arrested in abortion protests

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

difference between running an abortion clinic and running a concentration camp. We regard International Planned Parenthood as the head of the serpent and its time to cut off its head."

His arrest came after pressure from MPs on Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary. Mr Treshman was served with a notice of deportation on the grounds that his presence in Britain "was not conducive to the public good". The Home Office said that he was being transferred to Haslar Detention Centre in Gosport, Hampshire. Appeals against deportation take between two

A taste of the violence which has increasingly characterised anti-abortion protests in America has arrived in Britain

and three months. The threat of violence receded yesterday as Mr Treshman's arrest left his supporters with little stomach for a fight. The small demonstration outside the federation's headquarters ended with protesters arguing among themselves over tactics.

Dr Gregory Gardner, a GP from Birmingham, said that action ranging "from prayer to physical blockade of abortion clinics" was acceptable but physical assault was not. Michael Van Day disagreed. "Desperate men do desperate things," he said. "This is a matter of life and death. Sometimes I wish the British were a bit more aggressive about things."

Earlier, police averted a clash between pro and anti factions by ordering the pro-abortion group of about 50 to

move on before their opponents had arrived. Scuffles broke out and ten people were arrested. The rest melted away.

Half an hour later, a dozen anti-abortionists began arriving in twos and threes and drifted disconsolately up and down the road, pursued by reporters and television crews, as they were repeatedly moved on by police. One man who refused to move was arrested.

Katherine O'Keefe, American spokeswoman for the anti-abortionists, alleged that the federation had links with the eugenics movement which sought to promote a breeding

programme limiting reproduction to the fittest members of society. She produced documents dating back to 1918, but appeared to have no contemporary evidence.

The federation rejected the allegations. Mark Laskin, assistant secretary general, said that the organisation had never been involved in eugenics. "The suggestion is outrageous and untrue."

Father James Morrow the British anti-abortionist who was with her, backed Ms O'Keefe's claim and said that there would be more demonstrations outside London abortion clinics this week, but would not disclose where.

"The tactic that has been used in the past is to try to get in between the abortionist and his intended victim," he said.

Chief Inspector Martin Jauch defended police tactics in breaking up a peaceful demonstration, saying that a "potential confrontation" had been avoided. "Demonstrations are not allowed in the royal parks. They were asked to move on but they did not do so."

The British anti-abortion organisation Life dissociated itself from the American-led campaign. Nuala Scarisbrick, the honorary secretary, told BBC Radio 4: "I am bitterly opposed to violence. There is enough violence in abortion without adding to it."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hoover chiefs sacked over flights offer

Three Hoover executives were dismissed yesterday over a free-flights promotion that turned into a public relations disaster. The offer of flights to Europe or America to anyone who bought £100 of electrical goods generated more demand than four operators could handle, prompting fears that 20,000 out of 200,000 customers would be disappointed.

William R. Foust, managing director of Hoover Ltd and president of Hoover Europe, Brian Webb, Hoover vice-president of marketing, UK, and Michael Gilbey, director of marketing services, have lost their jobs. Maytag Corporation, which owns Hoover, said that the promotion had caused "tremendous difficulties in administration and implementation, plus significant unanticipated costs". It has now set aside £20 million to pay for it.

New Maxwell charge

The former treasurer of the Maxwell Communication Corporation was yesterday charged by police investigating the collapse of the Maxwell media empire. Albert Fuller, 41, of Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, was accused of conspiracy to defraud Credit Suisse, the bank. He is to appear before City of London magistrates tomorrow, with Robert Maxwell's sons Kevin and Ian, Larry Trachtenburg, former financial adviser to the Maxwell private companies, and Robert Bunn, a former Maxwell finance director.

No 'home alone' charge

A woman who left her daughter at home in London while she went on holiday to Spain is not to be prosecuted, Scotland Yard said yesterday. The Crown Prosecution Service advised police that prosecuting Yasmin Gibson, 32, of Hammersmith, west London, for alleged wilful abandonment of her daughter Gemma, 11, was not in the public interest. The CPS said it took the decision after looking at the attitude of Miss Gibson and considering the interests of her daughter.

Bishop's lover returns

Annie Murphy, 45, the divorced American woman who had a son by Eamon Casey, the former Bishop of Galway, returned to Galway yesterday to promote her book about the affair. Ms Murphy's book, *Forbidden Fruit*, goes on sale in Britain and Ireland tomorrow and is poised to become one of the biggest best-sellers in the republic.

House sales rise

House sales through Halifax estate agencies were at their highest for two years in February, the building society, Britain's largest, reports today. It also says that in February 34 per cent more people in the first-time buyer age group were seriously considering buying a property than were in July last year. Saving for a deposit was the biggest obstacle.

Nicotine patches ban

Firms selling cut-price nicotine patches which help to stop smoking have been ordered to withdraw them or face legal action. The Medicines Control Agency said the products should not be sold until they had been assessed for "safety, quality and efficacy". Nicotop and Nicopatch are priced much lower than the three officially licensed products.

Jersey attacks Guernsey 'donkeys' over fish deal

FROM NICHOLAS WAIT IN ST HELIER

CENTURIES of rivalry between Channel Island fishermen resurfaced yesterday after the official rejection of a deal between Guernsey and French trawlers.

Fishermen in Jersey were delighted when the agriculture ministry rejected the deal which would have allowed French fishermen into British waters around Guernsey for a four-week period of grace. They said that the deal had superseded 27 years of their own negotiations with the French.

One St Helier skipper said his counterparts in Guernsey had behaved like "donkeys" for acting unilaterally after being intimidated by the French. Guernsey fishermen maintained they had to protect their livelihoods and should not be penalised for differences between Jersey and France.

Mike Taylor, chairman of the Jersey Fishermen's Association, said: "I was relieved and pleased that the British Government said 'no' to the agreement because it set a dangerous precedent. If the French had succeeded they would have turned on us."

He added that the deal had harmed his own negotiations with the French to double Jersey's three-mile fishing limit. "We were meant to be meeting the French next month but now we understand they want to maintain the status quo," Mr Taylor said. "After their success in Guernsey, the French think they can now turn the screw on us. If they don't get their way next month some are threatening to blockade St Helier."

New clashes loom in fisheries war

Continued from page 1

vessel, HMS Blazer, in Cherbourg harbour, and burnt the White Ensign.

Mr Major promised only that the "recent fisheries-related incidents" were being pursued with the French authorities.

The skippers of 37 French trawlers that put into St Peter Port in Guernsey in a show of strength on Monday claimed to have secured agreement with Guernsey fishermen on a month-long "cooling-off period". During that time French trawlers would be allowed to fish in disputed waters and in return Guernsey fishermen would be free to land their catches in Normandy ports without hindrance.

David Curry, the fisheries minister, said there was no question of suspending or renegotiating the September agreement. "The French government is not questioning this deal. It is an international treaty. We negotiated it on behalf of the Channel Islands to protect this fishery for the Channel Islands themselves," he added.

Mr Curry said the Guernsey fishermen might have agreed to the cooling-off arrangement under duress. He said: "We cannot have the French fleet putting into Channel Islands ports and demanding dangled. It really is not up to private fleets of fishermen on the one hand and private associations of fishermen on the other to decide policy."

In Jersey, Senator John Rothwell, president of the Jersey agriculture and fisheries committee, described the informal deal as "blackmail" because Jersey boats would not be assured of being able to land fish in France. French

trawlers were reported to be planning a blockade of the island next month in protest against moves to extend the island's fishing limit from three to six miles.

Steve Ozanne, secretary of the Guernsey fisheries committee, said officials had always made clear to the French trawlers that the September agreement must stand. "My impression is, that the French fishermen greatly exaggerated the concessions they thought they had won in private talks with their Guernsey counterparts."

Mr Curry said he would be contacting his French opposite number as soon as one had been appointed in the new government following Sunday's elections. In the meantime, he had been assured that senior French officials had summoned the French trawlers and told them that they had to abide by the law.

The area at the heart of the dispute is a triangular patch of water northeast of Guernsey and south of Alderney rich in lobster and other shellfish. French trawlers claim historic rights in the area and in recent years have intensified their fishing there.

Under last September's agreement, French boats have been excluded from the area, except for a small part known as the Schole Bank box. Thirty-seven named French vessels can fish there. Of those, 12 can fish at any time of the year. The other 25 boats cannot fish in April and May. At other times, no more than four boats can fish on any one day.

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Hollick and Foot leave the Mirror

Continued from page 1

"The statement continued: 'Unfortunately it has not been possible to resolve these matters and I have therefore tendered my resignation.'

Mr Foot, who last week defied his superiors by handing out copies of his column that had been banned from the paper, said his decision to go was a result of the refusal of David Banks, the *Mirror* editor, to retract a statement issued on Friday suggesting that Mr Foot was cracking up. "I cannot write my column, and in the editor's eyes I am mad," he said.

Mr Foot said he would not be looking for a job in any other paper. Many readers bought the *Mirror* because of its support for unions, for the Labour party and for the underdog. "Everything this management has done has been designed to remove that difference," he said.

The departure of Mr Foot and Lord Hollick is the culmination of months of tension at the *Mirror* since David Montgomery took over as chief executive in October. More than 60 journalists, including such leading columnists as Anne Robinson, and union activists, have already walked out or been sacked.

Lord Hollick, who effectively represented the Labour party on the *Mirror* group's board, was known to be concerned that the tabloid was abandoning its traditional left-wing stance under Mr Montgomery. In February he refused to support a board statement of confidence in the group's business policies.

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At odds: fishermen's leaders Bill Ogier and Mike Taylor disagree over deal with French skippers

Thompson
the big ti
first Oscar



Elton John
breaks
the pact
tradition

Reserve

diary
media
letters

'As a husband-and-wife-team I don't want to dwell on him too much. It's not too good for women'

Thompson ready for the big time after first Oscar triumph

FROM WILLIAM CASH IN LOS ANGELES

EMMA Thompson said after collecting her Oscar for best actress that being nominated was "like having a very severe virus and getting married."

"People in England are constantly asking you how you feel, to the point where you start to feel ill. You come over here to what feels like a big wedding. It's very nerve-racking. I bought a lot of herbal tranquillisers and my mother. She's down there palpitating," said the *Howards End* star.

Wearing a blue Caroline Charles dress, she was escorted to the Academy Awards by her mother Phyllida Law, the actress. Her husband Kenneth Branagh, whose *Swan Song* failed to win best short film, was unable to attend because he is performing *Hamlet* at Stratford-upon-Avon.

Winning the award could elevate her to the \$5 million a picture level. When asked yesterday whether she was planning to make more Hollywood films, she replied: "My darling, I have no choice in the matter. I couldn't possibly

plan to do more Hollywood films. It would only count if someone from Hollywood decides to ask me to do them."

Ask, they are certain to, the type of film she has been making recently — her *Much Ado About Nothing* with Branagh is released in May — "is exactly the sort of upmarket, low-budget production the Hollywood studios are now climbing over each

other to make in the wake of the phenomenal success of *Howards End* and *The Crying Game* in America. The former actually came out two weeks before last year's Oscars, and the fact that it is still playing in art-house cinemas is seen as a testament to the box office staying power of certain types of independent films."

Thompson seems ideally placed to join the Hollywood big earners: there is little opposition and to many in Tinseltown she is not seen as a threat. She has appealed to

academy members because of her English self-effacement and her careful playing of the English card.

During the Oscar party round at the weekend, she made every effort to seem as scantly English as possible and said at the Independent Spirit awards: "I'm having a great time. This is like a huge picnic by the seaside where you get to talk to all your mates."

She does seem to have a lot of friends in Hollywood these days. Although four of her last eight films were directed by her husband, she remains reluctant to give him too much credit for her success. "Without him, I may not have had much of a film career," she admitted after winning her Oscar. "But as a husband-and-wife-team I don't want to dwell on him too much. I feel badly, but it's not too good for women."

It does not look as though Thompson will be expending too much energy attempting to galvanise the British film industry. Speaking of the Independent Spirit awards, which honoured America's independent film-makers on Saturday, she said: "If that event occurred in England, unfortunately, it would have been five of us in a greasy spoon café depressed and smoking. It saddens me that in Britain, the industry doesn't have the clout it once had. We're a miserable bunch, aren't we?"

At the end of a long night, what did winning an Oscar mean to her? "Well, I don't know what it means. It's sort of rather an oblique question. It means I got the chance to come to America and see and meet a lot of the people who have influenced me throughout my life. People who have given me tremendous joy in entertainment. I think that's a wonderful thing."

Had she spoken to her husband? "Yes, I have."

And what did he say to her? "I'm asleep — don't bother me now."



As you were: Thompson at Cambridge in 1982



Fistful of honours: Clint Eastwood with his Oscars for best director and best picture with *Unforgiven*. The film won two other awards

Why *Howards End* is not a new beginning

BY GEOFF BROWN, FILM CRITIC

WITH the British film industry in such a parlous state, the unexpected flood of Oscar nominations seemed a golden opportunity for national rejoicing. Viewed objectively, however, the success of *Howards End* in winning three Oscars from nine nominations means little for the rest of the industry.

Any publicity for the work of British film-makers, actors and technicians can only be welcomed. Yet we must be careful not to get carried away. *Howards End* is the kind of film that we always do well, and which anglophile Americans will always appreciate: a literary adaptation, a period piece from the Edwardian high summer, a vehicle for actors to show their breeding. Seven years ago, another Mer-

chant-Ivory adaptation from E.M. Forster, *A Room With a View*, won three Oscars. There was similar national rejoicing but the long-term impact was negligible.

There would be more cause for high hopes and hoop-la if *The Crying Game*, a far bolder film, had won in one of the main categories. Nominated for six awards, Neil Jordan's unclassifiable tale of terrorism and sexual obsession had to be content with just one statuette, for best original screenplay. If this off-beat independent venture had been anointed with Oscars, other British films with risky subject-matter might have an easier time securing finance and American distribution.

In the event, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sci-

ences played safe and anointed Clint Eastwood's *Unforgiven*, a magnificent homage to the Western myth that Hollywood worked so hard to foster. No British director could ever have brought off *Unforgiven*: it is not in the genes.

In the short term, these

LONG-TERM VIEW

Oscar results should bring more box-office revenue to *Howards End* and more goodwill towards our beleaguered industry. In the long term, the truth is that they leave British cinema much as it was before: a sickly child in need of massive transfusions of cash, hard work and creative imagination before it can get better.

□ Oscar winners were: Best actress: Emma Thompson, *Howards End*; Best actor: Al Pacino, *Scent of a Woman*; Best director: Clint Eastwood, *Unforgiven*; Best picture: *Unforgiven*, Clint Eastwood; Supporting actress: Marisa Tomei, *My Cousin Vinny*; Supporting actor: Gene Hackman, *Unforgiven*.

Art direction: Luciana Arrighi, set direction: Ian Whitaker. Adapted screenplay: *Howards End*, Ruth Praver Jhabvala. Original screenplay: *The Crying Game*, Neil Jordan. Original score: *Aladdin*, Alan Menken. Original song: "Whole New World" from *Aladdin*, Alan Menken, music: Tim Rice, lyrics.

Sound: *The Last of the Mohicans*, Chris Jenkins, Doug Hemphill, Mark Smith and Simon Kaye. Film editing: Joel Cox, *Unforgiven*; Make-up: Greg Cannom, Michele Burke, and Matthew Mungle, *Bram Stoker's*

Dracula. Visual effects: *Death Becomes Her*, Ken Ralston, Doug Chiang, Doug Smythe and Tom Woodruff. Sound effects editing: *Bram Stoker's Dracula*, Tom McCarthy and David Stone. Cinematography: *A River Runs Through It*, Philippe Rousselot. Costume design: *Bram Stoker's Dracula*, Elko Ishikawa.

Live action short film: Sam Karmann, *Omnibus*. Animated short film: *Mona Lisa Descending a Staircase*, Joan Gratz. Foreign language film: *Indochine*, A Paradis Films, La Generale d'Images, BAC Films, Orly Films, Cine Cine Production.

Documentary short subject: *Educating Peter*, Thomas Goodwin and Gerardine Wurzburg. Documentary feature: *The Panama Deception*, Barbara Trent and David Kasper. Honorary award: Federico Fellini, Jean Herscholt. Humanitarian award: Elizabeth Taylor, Audrey Hepburn.

Elton John breaks the party tradition

BY WILLIAM CASH

IN A night of few surprises, the biggest break with Oscar tradition came after the ceremony. The ten year supremacy of "Swiftly" Lazar's Oscar night party for Hollywood *toute mond* at Spago was challenged, by Elton John, who hosted the first of what will now be an annual Oscar party in aid of the Elton John AIDS Foundation.

Wearing a dark cowboy suit, the singer-songwriter hosted his party at the fashionable Maple Drive restaurant in Beverly Hills, giving several hundred guests swordfish and caramelised apple tart as they sat in booths watching the Oscars on private television sets.

The crowd outside Spago, on Sunset Boulevard, resembled a football terrace, with

dozens of British celebrity-seekers. Inside, considerably less full than in previous years, were such stalwarts as Roger Moore, George Hamilton, Elizabeth Taylor and Michael Caine, and later Sharon Stone and Miranda Richardson.

Richardson looked downcast after failing to pick up the best supporting actress award for her role in *Damage*. She sat in a dark corner under a canopy of balloons, picking at her slice of salmon pizza. Hollywood was extremely surprised that the award had gone to a bubbly, seemingly adolescent Marisa Tomei for her role in *My Cousin Vinny*. Caine was very anxious to meet Emma Thompson, he asked, "Where's Emma?" he asked, "Can somebody please introduce me. I've never met her and I'd very much like to." Thompson was, in fact, at Clint Eastwood's party at Nicky Blair's restaurant across the road.

Security at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in central Los Angeles had been tightened in the aftermath of the New York bombing, but the 65th academy awards ceremony lacked drama.

British film industry hopes wins will spearhead revival

BY ALISON ROBERTS, ARTS REPORTER

ACCEPTING one of his awards, Clint Eastwood declared: "In the year of the woman, the greatest woman is here tonight — my mother Ruth." But, as far as the British contingent was concerned, the accolade belonged elsewhere. It was Emma Thompson's night.

In addition to her best actress award, *Howards End* won two more Oscars: for art and set direction by Luciana Arrighi and Ian Whitaker, and for the best adapted screenplay written by Ruth Praver Jhabvala.

Back in England, her husband Kenneth Branagh, who was playing *Hamlet* at Stratford-upon-Avon, said he was "absolutely thrilled and very proud".

At Miss Thompson's old school, Camden School for Girls in north London, Geoffrey Fellows, the head teacher, declared: "If we had a flag we would be flying it."

A House of Commons motion was tabled congratulating the winners, and Peter

Brooke, the heritage secretary, said: "These awards and the many Oscar nominations remind us that Britain is an undisputed centre of excellence for film-makers from across the world."

His words were welcomed but some members of the film fraternity were bemused by what they viewed as hypocrisy. "One moment film is accused of corrupting the

nation and the next it is a big success story," a director said.

The industry, disappointed by the Chancellor's failure to include tax breaks for film-makers and actors in the Budget, also used the opportunity to lobby for government action.

Ken Russell, the veteran director, said that Mr Brooke's statement had not "cost him a penny". We want money, we want benefits, we want investment," Mr Russell believed, however, that the

success of *Howards End* would make some difference to the British industry's ability to raise funds. "I think it will do other film-makers good in so far as Hollywood thinks, 'there's money being made here, let's keep an eye on the British'."

Michael Grade, chief executive of Channel 4, which helped to pay for both *Howards End* and *The Crying Game*, said that the Oscar wins marked another of "those moments in the history of British cinema" when success should be rewarded with government support. *The Crying Game*, the Neil Jordan film whose story combines IRA terrorism and transsexuality, received only a lukewarm reception from the British public but has taken off in America.

Mr Grade added that the industry did not want subsidised status, as in France or Canada, but a return to the tax arrangements which drew stars to Britain.

Tim Bevan, co-director of successful British films such as *My Beautiful Laundrette*, was sure that Miss Thompson's success would not make "a blind bit of difference" to the government's attitude.

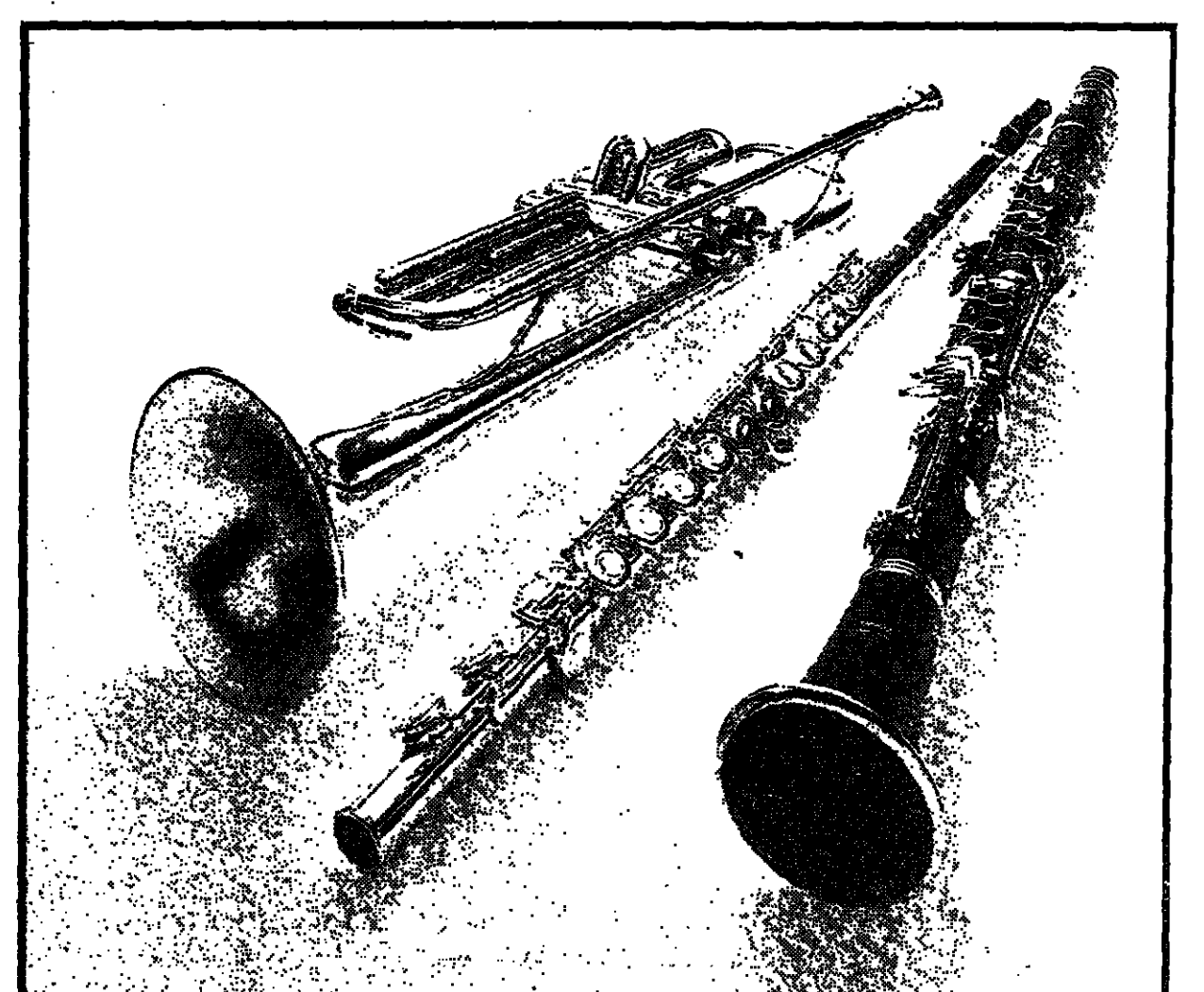
However, Will Stevenson, director of the British Film Institute, was more optimistic. He paid tribute to the winners, claiming that the British had won more than 30 per cent of the Oscars over the past 20 years, but also urged the government to look at ways of stimulating UK film production.

The British success in Los Angeles later prompted a heated exchange between Labour leader John Smith and John Major during prime minister's question time.

Mr Smith challenged John Major to help the British industry to the extent enjoyed by some foreign competitors. However, Mr Major rejected equivalent government aid and replied that the success of the film industry "in the private sector owes a great deal to the fact that it is in the private sector".



Winning game: Neil Jordan at the ceremony



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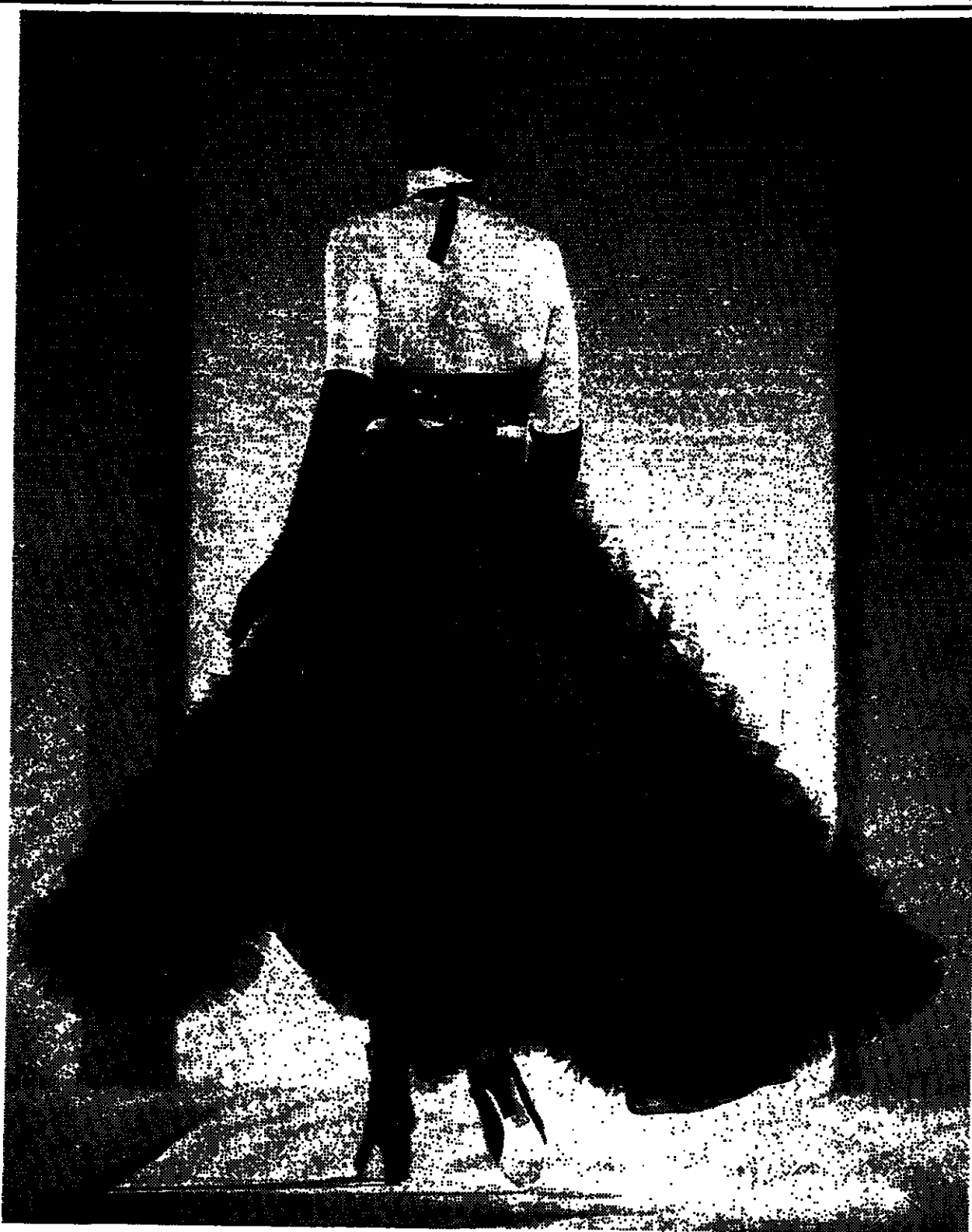
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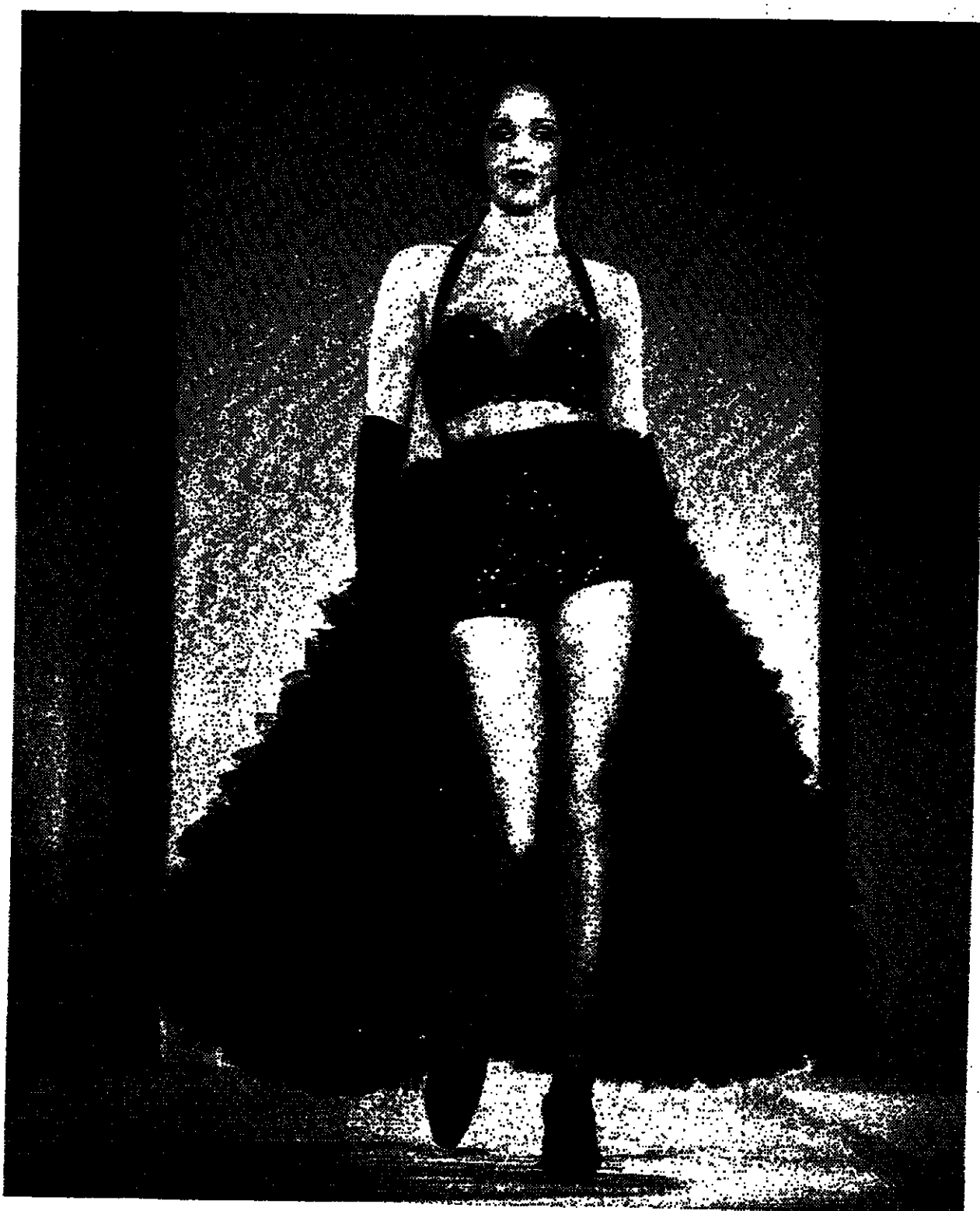
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IRA police killer jailed for 30 years scoffs at officers

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

AN IRA assassin was yesterday jailed for a minimum of 30 years for the deliberate murder of special constable Glenn Goodman and the attempted murder of three other officers.

Sentencing Paul "Dingus" Magee at the Old Bailey, Mr Justice Laws said: "This crime plunges the very depths of the abyss into which it is possible for the human spirit to sink."

Magee, 45, raised his arm in a V for victory salute to Sinn Féin supporters in the public gallery as he left the dock, then turned his fingers into a V-sign to police officers at the back of the court.

Margaret Goodman, the victim's mother who called for the return of capital punishment after the case, shouted from the public gallery: "Murderers, you killed my son."

The Home Office said last night that Magee would serve the recommended 30 years concurrently with a previous life sentence. It is understood he will apply to serve his sentence in Northern Ireland, but officials made clear permission was not automatic.

Police say that if Paul Magee had not been allowed bail in Ireland, he would not have been free to kill a policeman

The previous life sentence was passed in his absence in 1981 for the shooting of an undercover SAS officer, Captain Herbert Westmacott. Magee shot his way out of Crumlin Road prison, Belfast, during the trial.

Magee's co-accused at the Old Bailey, Michael O'Brien, 32, who was cleared of murdering PC Goodman but convicted of the attempted murder of two other officers, was jailed for a total of 18 years.

After his conviction O'Brien gave detectives details of where they had buried two handguns, a .45 and a .38 used in the shooting, and a search for the weapons in North Yorkshire will begin today.

Fiona Goodman, 33, the widow of the murdered special constable, told a press conference after the sentencing: "To call them animals would be an insult to animals, they are just

evil psychopaths. I think that any sentence that could be given under the law, as it stands is not enough for them."

An emotional Mrs Goodman, who has a 20-month-old son, Tom, called for a tightening of the law to allow all suspected terrorists "to be taken off the streets". She said she had no plans for the future, adding: "It is a big void. I have got to bring Tom up as best I can and I will do everything for him."

David Burke, chief constable of North Yorkshire, where the killing took place last June, condemned the decision by an Irish court to grant bail to Magee while he was fighting an extradition order to return him to Belfast to serve his sentence for the murder of Capt Westmacott. If Magee had not absconded in October 1991, he would not have been free to kill Mr Goodman.

unarmed officers were heroes, added: "I don't know the evidence on which the court made the judgment. It may be, had they taken a different view, things would have turned out differently." He said Mr Justice Laws "expressed surprise, and I agree with him".

PC Goodman, 37, and his partner PC Alexander Kelly, 32, were shot by Magee after they stopped a red Ford Sierra driven by O'Brien in a routine check on a slip road of the A64 between York and Leeds. It is believed that the terrorists were on a mission in the area to assassinate a VIP.

PC Goodman died from two shots to the chest; PC Kelly survived, despite being hit four times.

Shortly afterwards, five miles away at the village of Burton Salmon, Magee sprayed a burst of fire at two pursuing officers, PC Mark Whitehouse and WPC Susan Larkin, both 24, from an AK47 Kalashnikov rifle.

PC Kelly, who still has a bullet lodged in his pelvis, said: "I realise how lucky I am every day - I am lucky I am alive."



Widow's anger: Fiona Goodman described her husband's killer and his co-accused as evil psychopaths

Weed out bombers, says father

By PAUL WILKINSON

IRISH parents were yesterday asked to "weed out" the murderers of the two boys killed by an IRA bomb in Warrington. Colin Parry, whose son Tim, 12, died from his injuries last week, said: "You must know my son's killers."

Calling for fresh witnesses to the bombing Mr Parry, sitting with his wife Wendy, told a police press conference: "Ireland has shown us a great deal of love and affection. They should also search their souls and search among their friends and families to weed out these killers."

He said they were making their appeal "for other people who may have to face what we face if the IRA don't lay down their arms or change their tactics". Mr Parry called for anybody in Warrington to give any piece of information they had to police. "People like the IRA have got to be caught. It is inconceivable that some other town in this country should be chosen as a target and that some other families should have to go through what we have gone through."

Last weekend, Mr Parry met Gordon Wilson, the retired businessman whose daughter was murdered by the IRA in the 1987 Enniskillen Remembrance day bombing, and yesterday gave his support to Mr Wilson's plans to meet the IRA. "He is a very powerful, very influential and very passionate man. He is totally committed to the cause of peace. If he can move that ahead one inch, he has our very best wishes."

He said he understood politicians' fears of speaking to the IRA, and that it might encourage terrorism, but Mr Wilson was more than capable of making the IRA think again.

Army expert loses hand in car blast

By EDWARD GORMAN
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

AN ARMY bomb disposal expert lost a hand yesterday when a car bomb planted by loyalists blew up as he tried to remove it.

The explosion happened about two hours after the soldier began work on the car, which was parked outside a house on the edge of Antrim town. The car was said to belong to a Roman Catholic. The outlawed loyalist Ulster Volunteer Force later admitted planting the bomb.

The incident is further evidence of increased loyalist expertise in the making of bombs. Irish police are known to be worried that the UVF and the Ulster Freedom Fighters may soon carry out threats to launch a campaign in the republic.

At the weekend Ken Kerr, leader of the Ulster Democratic Party and a former member of the Ulster Defence Association, was quoted as saying that loyalist bombing of the south could begin at any time.

Mr Kerr, who is also a former Royal Marine, met leaders of the UVF and the UFF two weeks ago. He said the groups believed they could strengthen the unionist hand in Northern Ireland by attacking a range of "pan-nationalist" targets in the republic.

The injury to the soldier is the first for any member of the bomb disposal unit since 1988. In November it marked 21 years of operation in the province, during which 20 or its men have been killed. The IRA tried to kill police and soldiers on patrol in Omagh, co. Tyrone, with a bomb yesterday morning. It is thought that the device failed to detonate properly. No one was injured.

Scientist wins right to sue over Six film

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

FRANK Skuse, the former government forensic scientist, yesterday won an appeal that paves the way for him to bring a libel action against Granada Television.

Dr Skuse, who was retired from the Home Office in 1985 on the ground of "limited efficiency", is suing the television company over a programme about the Birmingham Six. His evidence helped to convict the men of the murder of 21 people. They were freed in 1991 after 16 years' wrongful imprisonment. Dr Skuse claims that a *World in Action* programme broadcast in 1985 meant that when he gave evidence at the men's trial he negligently "misrepresented to the court"

the effect of the scientific test which had been carried out.

In 1991, Mr Justice Brooke dismissed his action after ruling that the programme was defamatory only to the extent that it meant there were "reasonable grounds" to suspect that Dr Skuse was negligent in basing his conclusions almost entirely on one test. Yesterday, Sir Thomas Bingham, the Master of the Rolls, and Lords Justices Beldam and Kennedy said the judge's interpretation was wrong and allowed Dr Skuse's appeal against his decision.

They said the programme meant that Dr Skuse failed to show the skill, knowledge, care and thoroughness to be expected of a Home Office forensic scientist investigating the Birmingham bombings and giving evidence at trial. Sir Thomas said that the programme was "a serious, hard-hitting investigation of a criminal investigation and trial" which was not until some years later generally recognised as involving any miscarriage of justice.

The judges dismissed Granada's cross-appeal that the judge was wrong to rule that the programme bore any defamatory meaning. The libel action is likely to come to trial, before a judge sitting alone, in about a year.



Skuse gave evidence at Birmingham Six trial



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Police officers risk instant dismissal in Clarke's reforms

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE officers could face instant dismissal for the most serious offences under Home Office proposals for a two-tier disciplinary system aimed at sweeping away bureaucratic delay and inflexible regulations.

The proposals, announced yesterday in a consultative paper, are seen by the Home Office as bringing the police closer in line with employment practice for the civil service, private industry and the 40,000 civilians working in police forces. Minor offences and questions over standards of work would be dealt with by simple internal personnel work rather than the existing ponderous regulations.

Alan Eastwood, chairman of the Police Federation, which represents more than 120,000 junior officers, gave a warning that if the special status of the police changed, the police would demand the same rights as other employees including the right to form a trade union and affiliate to the TUC. Constables had a special position in law but the paper referred to "employee" and "industrial legislation", he said.

Many of the proposals will be welcomed by senior officers, however. One Home Office official yesterday acknowledged that the paper, which follows some of the proposals put forward two years ago by the Police Complaints Authority, were "a major cultural change".

Under the proposals, officers could still be disciplined

Creaking police disciplinary machinery faces streamlining under Home Office proposals to reform within two years

even if a court has cleared them of criminal charges, the present right to legal representation would end. The right of the Home Secretary to a special appeal would end, and officers could be dismissed in some exceptional circumstances even before trial on criminal charges.

The burden of proof would be reduced from beyond reasonable doubt to a balance of probabilities, the guidance applied in civil cases. The paper proposes one disciplinary tier covering unsatisfactory behaviour and another for misconduct. For the first time, sacked police officers would be able to appeal to an industrial tribunal. The Police Complaints Authority would oversee much of the police work.

Instant dismissal would be rare and used where a chief constable had good grounds for believing an officer was guilty of conduct "so discreditable that continuance in service would be a detriment to the public". The paper gives two examples: one of an officer caught carrying out a burglary or theft on his office, the other a rural officer who refused to attend to stop a suicide attempt because his shift did not start for another 15 minutes.

Projected as part of the Home Office's drive for better police standards, the paper argues that the present system

is far too inflexible, leaving senior officers with a big stick for a tiny offence. There is no simple way of dealing with poor standards, corner cutting, lapses of memory, work-shyness, bad practice or other small issues which make up the bulk of staff problems.

Introducing the paper, Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, said it was wrong that an officer who was accused of being late for work should have to face the same process as a man accused of assaulting a suspect.

He said the special position of the police had to be recognised but in nearly all their dealings with the public, the police were providing a service like other public servants. Failures should be dealt with in the same way they were handled elsewhere.



Beat copper: American-style protection demonstrated to MPs in London by policewoman Jackie Rayner

Baton show boosts campaign

POLICEWOMAN Jackie Rayner, 5ft 2in tall and armed with an American-style police baton, swiftly delivered a stunning blow to the knife arm of her "attacker".

When the same man, Inspector Peter Boatman, a martial arts expert, lunged at her when she was armed with a British truncheon, she struggled to pull it from her skirt and was soon overcome.

PC Rayner, from Northamptonshire, said yesterday: "A side-handle baton would allow me, a small woman, to defend myself against a large male attacker, something not possible now."

PC Rayner and Inspector Boatman were taking part in a demonstration to MPs in Parliament Square, London, of the effectiveness of the American weapon. It was organised by the Police Federation as part of its campaign to arm beat police with the side-handled, 2ft baton, which hangs from the waist.

Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, has refused to allow trials of the baton, saying it would destroy the traditional image of unarmed British police officers.

Detectives put face to knifeman

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE hunting for Jean Bradley, the woman stabbed to death in west London, yesterday issued an artist's impression of the man who stabbed her.

Detectives remain puzzled by the motive for the attack on Miss Bradley, who was about to get into her car when the man, described as a "big" black, approached her last Thursday. They believe the unusual head, wearing worn by the man, thought to be in his 30s or 40s, could include a brawler, a drug addict or a binlifter, but not a hit man.

Miss Bradley was stabbed after returning early in the evening to her BMW car parked in Acton. There was no evidence that the motive was robbery or a sexual assault and no other cases are being linked at present.

Police are awaiting the results of laboratory tests on a sharp six knife found close to the scene of the death, and a team of officers is questioning people in the area for more information about the attack.



An artist's impression of the killer

Boy of 14 in rape case escapes

By PAUL WILKINSON

A BOY aged 14, who was convicted of rape in Newcastle, has escaped custody today for the second time since October.

The boy, the 25th time in two years that the teenager, from the Pentham district of Newcastle, has gone missing from local authority care. He has built up a criminal record police describe as "as long as your arm". He has 43 convictions, from arson to burglary.

A Northumbria police spokesman said yesterday: "It is like a swing door. We put him in at one side and he pops out at the other."

Earlier this month, the boy was convicted at Durham Crown Court of snuffing glue and then holding down a girl, aged 15, in a churchyard as a companion attempted to rape her. The case had been adjourned after the boy absconded twice within three days. He was arrested the second time after a policeman, aged 70, was injured and four police cars were damaged chasing the vehicle he had taken.

Mr Justice Holland expressed anger at being unable to jail a youth he described as "beyond the law". Legally, he could impose only a supervision order. He deferred sentence until July after social workers said he would be held at a special residential school in Cumbria. But the boy was returned to Newcastle social services last week because the school could not cope.

Spies caught by a very British protest

By IAN MURRAY

THE fresh air of accountability wafting around M15 does not appear to have reached the rooftop of its London headquarters, where a forest of aerials, scanning dishes and dummy air fires has sprung up in defiance of planning regulations.

Such well-known subversives as Westminster City Council and Lord St John of Fawley have complained to Michael Howard, the environment minister, about the additions to the Grade 2 listed building on Millbank. He is said to be giving "serious consideration" to a demand that the offending equipment be taken down.

Alex Segal, chairman of the council's planning com-

mittee, said yesterday: "Normal planning procedures were ignored because this was all meant to be a security matter. But these clusters of fines and aerials are sticking up for all to see. There is nothing secret about them. We want them removed."

Conrad Sandler, a surveillance specialist, said: "Fake fines and chimneys are used to disguise equipment that you don't want photographed by a foreign spy. I don't suppose the M15 spies are lighting fires inside the building to keep warm."

"The chimneys — if they are chimneys — are there for an entirely different purpose. I imagine Stella Rimington [the head of M15] would insist on central heating these days."



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Arms-to-Iraq judge explains guidelines for enquiry

By MICHAEL DYNES AND CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT

DETAILS of the public hearings that form part of the judicial enquiry into the export of defence-related equipment and dual-use technology to Iraq will be outlined today by Lord Justice Scott.

A number of former and present ministers and officials will be called to give evidence into whether there was an attempt to sidestep guidelines restricting exports to Iraq before its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

The enquiry will also examine the legitimacy of ministers' use of public interest immunity certificates, a procedure to restrict access to information

about sensitive government activities. The full list of those to be called will not be disclosed, but it emerged last night that some potential witnesses are concerned that the judge may announce an enquiry into the "extent of government knowledge" rather than what was exported.

The enquiry might also be without at least four key witnesses, unless Lord Justice Scott asks the government for more powers, as John Major said he would be entitled to do. Mark Gurneridge, 52, who supplied information to M15 and M16 about Matrix Churchill, the machine tool com-

At least four key witnesses might be absent from Lord Justice Scott's enquiry into arms-related exports to Iraq

pany that was accused of falsifying export licence applications to trade with Iraq, insists that he will not appear unless he is subpoenaed. His role was revealed at last year's Old Bailey trial, at which he was due to be a witness but was never called. "I shall not go if I am merely invited as I don't believe it is in my best interests," he said.

The three directors of Matrix Churchill cleared of illegally exporting defence equip-

ment to Iraq have told Lord Justice Scott that they will give evidence to his enquiry, but only if they are legally represented and the costs are met out of public funds.

Paul Henderson, Trevor Abraham and Peter Allen were cleared after the Customs and Excise case against them collapsed when Alan Clark, the former defence minister, admitted that he had been "economical with the actuality". Mr Clark has

said he will attend if invited, as will Baroness Thatcher, according to her office.

It looks increasingly likely that witnesses will be allowed to have representation while they give evidence but those lawyers will not be able to cross-examine witnesses or rebut assertions made by other witnesses.

Lord Justice Scott is expected to state whether witnesses will be required to give evidence on oath and how civil servants can give evidence without breaching their duty of loyalty to the Crown. Other crucial questions still to be answered include how much will be held in camera, whether witnesses from M15 and

M16 will give evidence in public but behind screens, and whether the judge's report will be published.

The Lord Justice of Appeal was appointed to lead the enquiry in November after 500 pages of confidential documents released during the abortive £3 million trial of three senior executives from Matrix Churchill, which is based in the Midlands, indicated that government departments may have been involved in a cover-up over the scale of arms-related trade with Iraq.

The enquiry will also be looking into the circumstances surrounding the four executives of Ortech, a military engineering company, who

were convicted of illegally selling arms. The four men, John Grecian, Stuart Blackledge, Bryan Mason and Colin Phillips, were found guilty of exporting to Iraq an assembly line for making fuses for long-range artillery shells. Mr Grecian, who also supplied information to M15 and M16 in the late 1980s, and the other three executives, are seeking leave to appeal against their convictions after the collapse of the Matrix Churchill trial.

A spokesman for the enquiry said: "As matters involving Ortech fall within the enquiry's terms of reference, Lord Justice Scott has read papers involving that company's activities."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police aim at boy carrying to

A boy aged 13 who was taking his toy pistol to be repaired was stopped by a dozen armed police who forced him to the ground and held a gun to his head.

Anthony Sparkes, father of Karl Sparkes, of Bradford said yesterday: "A neighbour had rung the police after seeing Karl walking down the street with his toy. He said he was 19 and armed with an automatic weapon." Sparkes and his wife Glynis have complained to Wiltshire police.

Police said they had received a report of a youth entering a house with what appeared to be a firearm. "The youth was stopped and checked and was quickly established that the gun was plastic."

Couple shot

A couple found dead in a garden in Midsford, Herefordshire, were identified yesterday as Tina Dwyer, 35, and her brother-in-law Johnny Lov 29, both of Sidcup, Kent. It was thought that they shot themselves after their relationship upset their families.

Cell hanging

Anthony McCann, 39, of Ruchazie, Glasgow, was found hanging in his cell at State Hospital in Carstairs, Strathclyde. He had been due to appear at the High Court in Glasgow yesterday, charged with murder.

Teacher revives

Pam Poole, 60, a teacher at Blandford Forum, Dorset, has come out of a 10-week coma after hearing taped messages from children at Archbishop Wake Church of England primary school.

Visitor ban

Queen's College, Oxford, is to ban visitors without appointments after a series of thefts from students' rooms and offices. Guided tours of the college will continue.

Off the hook

Tom Morton, 26, has cancelled a show in Blackpool in which he instantly recalls thousands of telephone numbers. He is suffering from amnesia after falling from a ladder.

Pit prop goes

British Coal is to stop using canaries to detect poisonous gas underground. It is to introduce monitoring equipment that is quicker than the birds at sensing the gases.

Jogger raped

Police are interviewing a jogger aged 19 who was raped beside the A30 in Camberley, Surrey, after going to the aid of a man who told her that his car had broken down.

Students give leader new mandate for reforms

By BEN PRESTON

THE National Union of Students yesterday gave its incumbent president a fresh mandate to embark on reforms that will allow individuals to opt out of campus membership.

The re-election of Lorna Fitzsimons gave impetus to proposals for the NUS to seek charitable status — imposing spending restrictions on political campaigns — in an attempt to head off government plans to end student unions' virtual closed shop.

At present, students automatically become members of campus unions, which then vote whether to affiliate to the national body. They provide most of the NUS annual income of more than £2 million in fees. The government is expected, in a Commons statement after Easter, to confirm its intention to end automatic membership and put the onus on students choosing to join.

Miss Fitzsimons, 25, the official Labour candidate, overcame a hard-left challenge at the union's annual conference in Blackpool to win a second year as president. She defeated Janine Booth, the Left Unity candidate, by 490 votes to 376, in the third round of a single transferable vote contest.

The victory marks the apparent abandonment of traditional student protest weapons of demonstrations and occupations. Miss Fitzsimons told the conference: "The traditional kind of campaign is a poster, stickers, an occupation or a demonstration. How many of our 1.5 million members are interested in that kind

of campaign? Year in, year out we have had that and year in, year out it has not worked."

Her win secures the supremacy of so-called new realists opposing Conservative plans for voluntary membership. After the vote, Miss Fitzsimons said the reform package would guarantee the future of the NUS for decades, regardless of what the government did. She said ministers were being sent back to the drawing board over student unions. She hoped the reform process, including decentralisation of decision making to the regions, would change the culture of student unions and encourage more individuals to participate.

The combative style and direction of Miss Fitzsimons' leadership dominated the hustings. She was accused of Stalinist tactics by Justine McGuinness, the Liberal Democrat candidate, and of supping with the Tories by a procession of far-left rivals.

Iain Pigg, the outgoing national secretary and a Liberal Democrat, welcomed her re-election as an endorsement of the leadership's strategy to rid the union of the negative public image it has held since the 1960s. The conference has been relatively sedate this year, with moderates securing comfortable majorities in several votes on internal union issues.

Mr Pigg said the election result showed the "dinosaurs" of the far-left faced extinction. "Students are rallying to preserve their entitlement to student union facilities and show the government their concern over control of their funds."



Opening note: Brian Blessed at Hickleton Main colliery launches the *Deane Valley Opera*, which will feature a thousand-strong cast

Village opera celebrates the past in miner key

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE considerable bulk of the actor Brian Blessed was used yesterday to launch what is claimed will be the largest outdoor arts event of the year. Wearing some of the climbing kit he used on Everest for a TV documentary two years ago, he scaled the 100ft winding gear of the disused Hickleton Main colliery in South Yorkshire.

The pithead is the centre of a set created for the *Deane Valley Opera*, a

three-day spectacular in mid-September, backed by the English National Opera. A thousand-strong cast, many drawn from local musical groups, will perform a work telling the story of a wartime pit disaster in the valley 51 years ago. The music has been written by Karen Wilmshurst, composer of the *Lockhart Requiem* commemorating the air disaster four years ago.

Blessed had hoped to be in the cast, but instead will be on the slopes of Everest again, attempting to complete

the climb to the summit that he had to abandon last time.

The project is the idea of David Beresford, a TV producer and miner's son who was born in the village. He said: "The opera is not a requiem for the coal industry, but a tribute to the communities which once powered the industrial revolution. It is a celebration of their determination, resourcefulness and good humour."

The *Deane Valley*, east of Barnsley, has been one of the big casualties as

coal production has fallen. More than 10,000 mining jobs have gone in the past decade, taking about £100 million from the local economy. One in three men is unemployed and many young people have never worked.

Mr Beresford said: "The very reason for the existence of these mining villages has gone. What remains of their community spirit is embodied in the traditional choirs and bands of South Yorkshire, many of which will be involved in the opera."

Rural lobby seeks to double tree total

By JOHN YOUNG

A SUSTAINED programme to double the number of trees in England by the middle of the next century was called for yesterday by the Countryside Commission.

The European Community should be persuaded to amend its present rules on agricultural set-aside "at the earliest opportunity" to allow farmers to plant new woodlands on land taken out of production. The government should also review the grant scheme to determine whether added incentives were needed for planting, the Countryside Commission said.

Ireland was the only European country with fewer trees

than England. More woodland would, the commission said, enhance landscapes and wildlife habitats; reduce dependence on timber imports; provide new opportunities for recreation; and help to slow global warming.

"The time has come to take another look at tree cover, which is abysmally low in the United Kingdom," Sir John Johnson, the commission's chairman, said. "People want trees, and there is going to be more agricultural land available for planting them. The right incentives are needed."

"We have the potential to develop some of the most adventurous forest creation

projects ever seen in England. We must all now seize the opportunity to put life back into our trees and woods, and to put trees and woods back into our lives."

The report said that timber growers and conservationists were concerned that there was too little tree cover. About half the broadleaved woods dated from 1600 or earlier; most of the loss was caused by clearance for agriculture and for replanting with conifers in the 1950s and 1960s.

Conifers and broadleaves had a part to play, and it was more important to pay attention to the design, location and management of woods

than to focus on the narrow issue of broadleaves versus conifers, the commission said. The newly designated national forest in the Midlands was a chance to create a magnificent national asset of nearly 200 square miles in the heart of England, with tree cover increased from 6 to 40 per cent. In the lowlands, there were many opportunities for planting on farms and estates, and it should be possible to afforest land that was compulsorily set aside.

England's *Trees and Woods* (Countryside Commission Postal Sales, PO Box 124, Walgrave, Northampton NN6 9TL; £2)

Women on jet lead scumdown

By A STAFF REPORTER

WHEN the pilot of a transatlantic jet radioed ahead to Gatwick for a police escort for a pack of rowdy rugby players, officials were surprised to discover that the worst offenders were a team of women.

They were members of Brampton RFC, from Toronto, making their UK tour with the club's male side got off to a suitably outrageous start. The women's antics are alleged to have included a mass scrummage, rugby tackles in the aisles, mooning, clambering over seats and singing unladylike songs.

A spokeswoman said: "The girls were hitting the duty-free pretty heavily. When that ran out, we started on the drinks trolley. In the end, we got so out of hand the hostesses refused to serve any more. It was outrageous."

Boasting that the women were as drunk as the men, but worse behaved, she said they were almost banned from boarding the Canadian Airlines jet after a four-hour drinking bout at Toronto airport. Before the flight was out of Canadian airspace, the pilot threatened to make an emergency stop in Newfoundland to off-load them.

Club officials are understood to be carrying out an enquiry, and the spokeswoman admitted: "We're for the high jump when we get home." Hilary Bassett, the airline's spokeswoman, confirmed the unruly behaviour. Emma Maloney, of Sussex police, said: "Officers were amazed to see half of them were women. But they were all well behaved on arrival in Britain. They had calmed down."

People of Today are gone tomorrow

By ALAN HAMILTON

GRAHAM Gooch, his designer stubble and miserable performance on the subcontinent notwithstanding, is selected. David Gower is in — indeed he was never dropped. Even Mike Gatting, after a spell in the wilderness for being a naughty boy, is back.

On this occasion the selectors are not those who reach inexplicable decisions at Lord's, but the editors of *Debut*, the arbiters of aristocracy and distinction. Their team, unlike Gooch's, includes Jack Russell, John Embury makes probably his last appearance, but Roland Butcher has finally been dropped after a long innings.

The criteria for an appearance in the new edition of *People of Today*, the companion volume to *Debut's Peerage*, published this week and a direct rival to the magisterial *Who's Who*, appear almost



In: Graham Gooch, man in the news



Out: Roland Butcher, after a long run

as arcane as those applied by the Test and County Cricket Board. This year's *Who's Who* picks a more stately, indeed veteran-packed team among its 28,000 entries of the great and good: Gooch again, Compton and Cowdrey, but not a Gower or Gatting in sight.

Patsy Ellis, editor of *People*

Of Today, denied that the likes of Gooch could now be included because the annual volume had dropped the word *Distinguished* from its title. "We include people who are currently in the news or are likely to be talked about."

This year's edition includes 1,500 new entries among the total of 40,000, with a similar

number dropped to make room for them. Almost the only way to disappear from *Who's Who*, on the other hand, is to transfer to *Who Was Who*.

Who's Who, the grande dame of reference books, is somewhat reserved about including entries from pop music, advertising, fashion and similar shallows of public life, although it admits Paul McCartney, Debut, for all its blue-blooded provenance, is much more catholic and arranges new entries this year include the Rolling Stones, Eric Clapton and Tom Jones.

Media personalities, being the new aristocracy in a supposedly classless Britain, are well represented by, among others, Kate Adie and Julia Somerville.

Debut is commendably up-to-date in including Vikram Seth in a book published only a week after his own similarly sized doorstep.

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Labour backtracks on opposition to council tax system

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour party yesterday acknowledged on its general election pledge to scrap the council tax and replace it with a system of fair rates.

In a significant policy shift, Mr. Straw, the shadow environment secretary, outlined a number of measures to modify the tax.

Launching Labour's campaign for the 47 county council elections on May 6, Mr. Straw said the party accepted the property tax element but still opposed the poll tax element of the council tax. He tried to seize the Tory ground on value-for-money by claiming that Labour councils were sending out the lowest bills.

In the Commons, however, John Major challenged Mr. Straw's assertion that council tax bills in Labour councils would be on average £14 lower than those of Conservative councils, and produced figures claiming the opposite. He told MPs in the Commons that the ten highest charges for band C were in Labour councils and the ten lowest were in Tory and independent councils.

The Conservatives are expected to try to further rubbish Labour's figures when they launch their own campaign this morning.

Labour has been under mounting pressure from Labour councils, which are determined to avoid yet another

shake-up in local government finance after the fiasco of the poll tax and its speedy successor.

The local authorities argue that the council tax is much nearer to Labour's system of fair rates and could be easily adapted to better reflect ability to pay. Labour councillors are also wary that any further opposition to methods of raising local taxation could push ministers into taking local government finance into central control.

Mr. Straw said Labour would widen the number of bands and make them more directly related to property values and ability to pay. Labour would also improve the discounts for disabled people, especially those in the lowest value properties. At present those who need to adapt their houses because they are disabled pay council tax at the level of the band below their own.

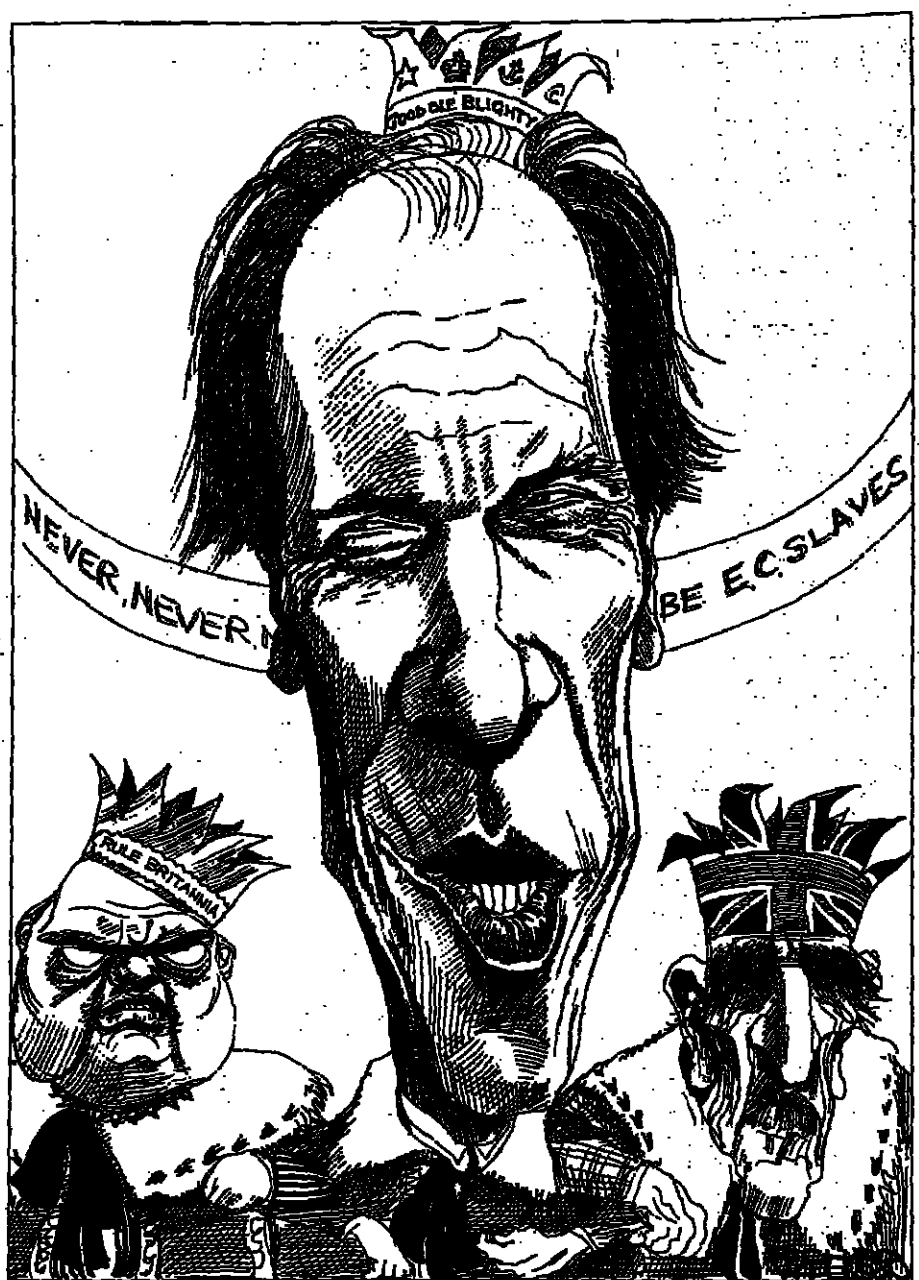
Mr. Straw argues that those on the lowest band get no discount while those on higher bands get a disproportionately higher discount. He also plans to end the automatic 50 per cent discount for second homes, leaving it to the discretion of councils on whether to make charges. He did not, however, signal changes to the single person's discount of 25 per cent.

Mr. Straw said he could not

Diehard Tebbit tilts at a treaty windmill

Norman Tebbit has overreached himself. Not only has his language about the European Community become more extravagant, but he is in danger of putting himself in the unlikely company of the most reactionary of Tory aristocrats, the diehards or "ditchers" like Lord Halsbury, who resisted until the end of the 1911 bill limiting the powers of the Lords.

The politics of the Maastricht treaty have never been straightforward and have been made even muddier by the acceptance of new clause 75 requiring a vote on the social chapter before ratification of the treaty. Uncertainty may continue until the autumn. However, some points are clear. The treaty was supported in all the main



Unlikely lads: Norman Tebbit risks joining the reactionaries of the Lords

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

parties' manifestoes, and the bill implementing the treaty received an overwhelming majority on second reading last May.

The Tories' narrow majorities, and one loss, during the committee stage have reflected more the overall political situation than the principle of the bill. The main parliamentary threat to ratification — as opposed to the second Danish vote and other external developments — has always looked likely to be the social chapter.

A possible referendum has generated more heat outside than inside the Commons. Tory and Labour front benches have been opposed and Liberal Democrats are split. A sizeable minority of MPs of all parties will probably vote for a referendum, though it looks certain to be defeated, with the size of the majority depending on whether Labour abstains. The current petition will generate much publicity and may affect a few waverers but will not change the outcome.

Lord Tebbit has argued that the petition will help to generate support in the Lords for a referendum, and that if

the Lords does approve such an amendment, "they will have a job to take it out in the Commons".

It is, as Lord Tebbit said at the weekend, "quite an attractive thought" for the unelected chamber to propose "asking the people". It is also a rich irony for Lord Tebbit to be invoking the Lords against the Commons after the Thatcher government's complaints about the upper House defeating it so often during the mid-1980s.

The constitutional convention is that peers never vote on the second or third readings of bills and amendments seldom seek to undermine the principle of government measures. Moreover, under the so-called Salisbury doctrine (named after the fifth marquess, leader of the Tory

peers in the late 1940s), the Lords does not seek to oppose bills which were proposed in a party's manifesto at the previous election.

The Maastricht bill was clearly a manifesto commitment and it would be improper for the Lords to obstruct its passage. A moot point is whether it would be right for the Lords to ask the Commons to take a second look at a referendum, given the strength of public opinion, as reflected in a series of MORI polls and the petition. The counter-view is that this would amount to undermining the principle of the bill and the Lords should not seek to reverse a clear vote in the Commons.

More generally, Lord Tebbit and his allies in the

Commons — a band of patriots as James Cran likes to call them — are heading for a political cul-de-sac like the diehards of 1911. They have not offered a plausible alternative European policy. At its most absurd this has produced the advocacy of a new national party by some of the young and old loggers of *The Sunday Telegraph* and *The Spectator*. Lord Tebbit himself — at his best a wry observer of the political scene with a feel for the public mood — at times seems willing to risk a split in the Tory party and the departure of John Major. The Tories, and in particular the Eurosceptics, have to decide whether they want to remain a party of government.

PETER RIDDELL

Rifkind calls for limits to role in Bosnia

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A UNITED Nations peace-keeping operation in Bosnia-Herzegovina should be dependent on an agreement that countries sending forces should do so only for a specific time-limited period, Malcolm Rifkind said last night.

In an important development of British policy the defence secretary proposed a shakeup in UN operations designed to spread the burden between countries with reducing defence resources.

A peacekeeping operation could only be mounted if there was a genuine and lasting ceasefire to which all the warring factions were committed, he said. "Either the shooting has largely stopped, or it has not. I have to say that we should only be prepared to commit British forces to helping to make a ceasefire work if those who have been fighting also wish to make it work."

Countries such as Britain contributing to UN operations should only be required to commit their forces for an agreed period.

Mr. Rifkind recommended a change in UN procedures under which the countries taking part in particular operations are decided at the outset and remain committed throughout, which has resulted in a British presence in Cyprus for 30 years.

A time limit would spread the load and "encourage new countries to participate by reducing their fears of becoming sucked into open-ended commitments". He said: "For this work, those originally committed must be confident that they will at the due time be relieved of their commitment."

In a speech to the Tory Reform group, Mr. Rifkind showed his caution about increasing British involvement. He said: "We have consistently refused to commit ground forces in Bosnia in an intervention (so called peacekeeping) role, not because of any squeamishness on our part, but because of a clear judgment that military intervention, in what has many of the characteristics of a civil war, will not solve the problem."

The unpredictability of the intentions of those involved in the fighting, the absence of clear demarcation between sides on the ground, the lack of notice they take even of their own commanders and political leaders, and the terrain which makes it easy to sustain a terrorist-type campaign, all mean that we could not commit our forces with any confidence about their success or safety."

It was possible to make a positive difference to the humanitarian effort without placing forces at unacceptable risk, but to make forces available for a peacekeeping operation would be sensible only if such an operation had a chance of success.

Bosnia was a snapshot of the kind of hugely complex, politically fraught, multinational operation that would increasingly face Britain in future. "The dividing line between pure defence and humanitarian aims will become increasingly blurred."

Mr. Rifkind, who was replaced by Major the Jelly Baby, who could be swallowed in one gulp by the Labour movement if there was the necessary leadership.

For the first time next year, the annual conference will be open to the media.

Petitions flood referendum HQ

By JONATHAN PRYNN

MORALE is running high in the Maastricht referendum campaign headquarters with "great wedges" of petitions arriving every day following the publication of petition forms in national newspapers.

Martin Garrod, the campaign's deputy director, would not give a figure for the total number of completed forms he expected to receive but said it runs to "mega-numbers". One report said the campaign hoped for two million signatures by the weekend. One particularly enthusiastic supporter re-

turned 29 forms, each bearing the maximum 25 signatures.

The campaign, supported by Lord Tebbit and Baroness Thatcher, will present the petition to Parliament, possibly on the day that the Commons debates an amendment calling for a national referendum.

Recent influxes of cash from unidentified well-wishers have given an enormous boost to the campaign, which started with a mailshot of 120,000 petition forms. "Up to now lack of cash has meant that we have only been tackling about

0.001 per cent of the population. Now with national press advertising the campaign goes straight out to every town and village in the country," Mr. Garrod said.

The campaign is targeting most national newspapers, and already this week the form has been published in *The Times*, *The Daily Express*, *The Sun* and *The Daily Mirror*. It is also aiming at periodicals such as *Private Eye*, *The Spectator* and *New Statesman & Society*.

Diary, page 16

Militant counters 'lurch to right'

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

IN November 1985, Labour's soft left gathered at St Ermin's hotel in west London to hatch a plot which eventually culminated in the expulsion of Militant Tendency activists from the party.

Yesterday prominent members of the expelled sect gathered at the same hotel, in St James', to launch Militant Labour, aimed at capturing the left-wing ground they claim Labour has deserted.

The irony of the choice of venue was recognised by the leaders of an organisation confident that Labour's "lurch to the right" has now given Militant the chance to make substantial electoral gains. Dave Nellist, a former Labour MP and one of Militant's best-known figures, has already set his sights on a possible return to Westminster as a Militant Labour member.

The party's first tests will come within the next six weeks. On Friday it will urge trade unionists to support a day of strike action in protest at mass unemployment. It will also field candidates at the May 6 county council elections in Coventry, Stockton-on-Tees, Hull and Nottingham.

Many of the fundamental policies of the new "independent socialist organisation" are no different to those of its predecessor, with the need to overthrow the government

and capitalism remaining at the fore. Nationalisation of Britain's 150 largest companies, a £200-a-week minimum wage and full employment will be other prominent campaign issues.

But there are significant changes, notably in the party's outspoken criticism of the Labour party within which it had to operate clandestinely for three decades. Behind the slogan: "Struggle, Solidarity, Socialism", the party will press Labour to revert to its socialist principles.

Yesterday's launch contained a person-by-person denunciation of John Smith's frontbench team. Mr. Nellist denounced Labour's abandonment of "basic principles". The former Coventry South East MP is one of three former Labour MPs joining the new party. Terry Fields, who was MP for Liverpool, Broad-green, and Andy McMahon, who represented Glasgow Govan until 1983, will also be members.

Peter Taaffe, general secretary of Militant, said: "Mrs Thatcher the Iron Lady has been replaced by Major the Jelly Baby, who could be swallowed in one gulp by the Labour movement if there was the necessary leadership."

For the first time next year, the annual conference will be open to the media.



Rifkind demands new UN ground rules

Scientists fail accountancy test

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH scientists working in Antarctica turned out to be better at discovering the hole in the ozone layer than managing their budget, the National Audit Office says.

More by luck than design, the four large projects for increasing Britain's research base worked out fairly well. A new ship, the RRS *James Clark Ross*, was completed on time, although the cost went up from the supply estimate of £30.2 million to £42.7 million and the project manager lacked expertise on how to build a ship.

A berthing jetty was built at Rothera station on Adelaide island, but in the wrong place. Redesigning and positioning increased costs from an estimated £81,000 to more than £2 million.

Problems arose between German contractors and British managers building the new research station at Halley V on a floating ice shelf. Costs increased from the original estimate of £5.2 million to £9.4 million and was about two years late.

As the scientists had to cope with atrocious weather conditions, the financial watchdog is not unsympathetic, praising the research done into global warming

with an annual budget of £27.7 million. If the ice sheet melts, the report points out, the world mean sea level would rise by 65 metres.

Jim Rickleton, an audit manager, joined the maiden voyage of the RRS *James Clark Ross*, to see the projects. The auditors conclude that the survey achieved "reasonably good value for money" even though many Treasury rules were broken.

□ National Audit Office — British Antarctic Survey, management of major capital projects and scientific programmes (Stationery Office £7.40).

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Post Office sell-off attacked

Opposition parties united yesterday in trying to fuel public protest at government plans to sell off the Post Office (Arthur Leathley writes). Labour and the Liberal Democrats seized on the issue as it emerged that Michael Heseltine is expected to make a statement on privatisation in early May.

Malcolm Bruce, Liberal Democrat trade and industry spokesman, accused the government of "playing with fire". More than 40 Labour MPs tabled a Commons motion accusing Bill Cockburn, chief executive of the Post Office, of abandoning the normal neutrality of a senior public official.

Funds enquiry

MPs are to investigate the funding of political parties. The CBI, trade union leaders and businessmen will be invited to give evidence to the all-party home affairs select committee. Labour and the Liberal Democrats are committed to public funding of political parties but the Tories oppose any such move.

Cot deaths

The reduction in cot deaths by a half in recent months was a "remarkable achievement", John Major said at question time. He congratulated Anne Diamond, the television presenter, on her campaign to reduce cot deaths.

Nazi hunt

The government has made a £10.6 million provision for 1993-4 to pursue cases against alleged Nazi war criminals in Britain. Eral Ferrers, Home Office minister, said in the Lords. Lord Boyd-Carpenter said it was "an appalling waste of money".

In Parliament

Commons (2.30): Questions: Scotland. Motion on legal aid regulations. Lords (2.30): Debate on the coal review.

Rifkind calls for limits to role in Bosnia

UK Bosnia force could reach 8,500

The defence ministry is worried about long-term demands on British resources in a UN peacekeeping operation

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN could be committed to sending at least 8,500 soldiers to Bosnia if the three warring factions sign a peace agreement, according to the latest planning. America wants Britain to send a division of more than 10,000.

The increasing size of this country's potential peacekeeping involvement in Bosnia is causing concern inside the defence ministry, which is worried about the long-term implications of having a large force deployed in Bosnia for a year or more.

Defence sources said that until British units were withdrawn from long-standing foreign commitments — from Berlin by next summer, Belize within about 18 months and Hong Kong by 1997 — big peacekeeping duties would not be possible.

Britain has told Washington that the defence ministry cannot muster a division for Bosnia, even though France is expected to do so and America plans to send two divisions of 25,000 men. Russia is also prepared to send troops, although the original offer of a division looks doubtful.

Present planning is that Britain would commit a brigade of about 6,000. Now that Nato's new rapid-reaction corps headquarters is expected to be sent to Bosnia to help to mastermind the peacekeeping operation, however, another 2,000 to 2,500 British troops could become involved. Britain supplies most of the corps headquarters personnel in Germany, which consists of a large force of engineers, signals and communications experts and logistics units, as well as staff officers.

Lieutenant General Sir Jeremy Mackenzie, a British officer, commands the rapid-reaction corps and he would run the headquarters in Bosnia if a United Nations Security Council resolution

mandated a peacekeeping mission. If RAF ground-attack aircraft also become involved and the Royal Navy task force, led by the carrier HMS *Ark Royal*, remains in the Adriatic, the total British commitment could go beyond 10,000. The present commitment is 2,500 soldiers, all engaged in humanitarian aid.

The whole exercise is dependent on the Bosnian Serbs, Muslims and Croats agreeing to the Vance-Owen peace plan. At the moment, there is increasing scepticism among Nato planners that a deal will ever be signed.

One crucial issue, however, has already been decided: should a large UN peacekeeping force be deployed. Defence ministry sources said there would be an "honourable withdrawal" of the troops if an agreed ceasefire broke down and a full civil war began.

The latest thinking is that, with the UN as the umbrella, the largely Nato peacekeeping force would fit into a Balkan command set-up. Troops would be sent to Croatia, as well as Bosnia, and a separate force would be put on standby to go to Macedonia if that became necessary. The Russian soldiers would be sent to patrol in Bosnian Serb territory.

The Balkan commander would be an American officer, probably Admiral Jeremy Borda, who is commander-in-chief allied forces southern Europe. General John Shalikashvili, the American supreme allied commander Europe, would also be involved. The command system, however, remains an issue because the French have refused to accept the American commanders with their Nato hat. They have, however, raised no objections to having Gen Mackenzie as the rapid-reaction corps commander in Bosnia.

Serb killers will face firing squad

FROM KURT SCHORK IN SARAJEVO

A BOSNIAN war crimes court yesterday sentenced two Bosnian Serb soldiers to death by firing squad for murder, rape and robbery.

General Philippe Morillon, the head of UN forces in Bosnia, said he thought the case should be turned over to an international war crimes tribunal, and he intended to take it up with Bosnia's Muslim leadership. "It is something I will probably discuss with President Izetbegovic today," he said.

The Bosnian authorities had charged the pair with

under Serb control. The prosecution did call some witnesses, mostly Muslims who had escaped from Serb-held territory.

Defence counsel argued that court-appointed medical experts had not proved Herak was able to control his actions. Damjanovic's lawyer attacked the credibility of Herak's testimony, focusing on an episode in which Herak contends the two men raped a Muslim girl who was then killed by Damjanovic.

"As for his (Herak's) statement, at first glance it is very detailed and full of analysis, but upon closer examination it is full of contradictions," said Branko Maric, for Damjanovic. He pointed out that Herak's written statement and oral testimony conflicted: one saying Damjanovic shot the girl in the head and the other that he shot her in the back. "I think he wasn't there ... He made all this up," Mr Maric continued.

Counsel for both defendants attacked the court's jurisdiction on matters of genocide, questioning whether the government of Bosnia-Herzegovina is a signatory to the Geneva Conventions. They argued that if the Geneva Conventions applied in Bosnia, their clients should have been treated and tried as prisoners of war. (Reuters)

□ The Hague: Rump Yugoslavia has asked the International Court of Justice to postpone tomorrow's first hearing on Bosnia-Herzegovina's demand for urgent measures to halt genocide by Serbia and Montenegro, a Yugoslav source said. (AFP)

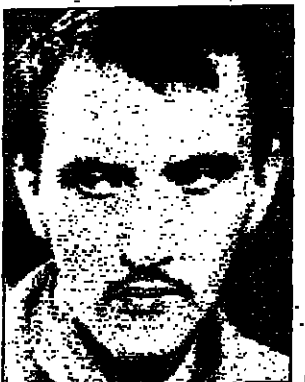
Damjanovic claims he confessed after beating

genocide, and acting as agents of a systematic effort to create "pure" Serb areas, by raping and murdering Muslim women, executing Muslim civilians, looting, and burning their properties.

Borislav Herak, 22, who admitted raping 16 Muslim women and killing 11 of them, told judges: "I have deserved this." His co-defendant, Srećko Damjanovic, 31, said he would appeal, claiming that a confession made to Muslim authorities after his arrest had been beaten out of him. Both men were fighters in the Bosnian Serb army which has besieged Sarajevo for almost a year. They were arrested when they stumbled on a Muslim checkpoint in the city last November.

Herak incriminated himself during the trial by describing in gruesome detail the rapes and murders he had committed.

Corroborating evidence in the trial has been scant as the territory where the alleged crimes took place remains



Herak: told court he deserved the sentence

The lucky few leave behind relatives still under fire

FROM JOEL BRAND IN TUZLA

LITTLE Elmedin Barakovic, swinging his short legs from a wooden bench in Tuzla's main sports hall, is one of the lucky ones. The seven-year-old's mother is dead, his father wounded and still trapped in the Serb siege of an eastern Bosnian town, and his three-year-old sister is in Tuzla's hospital.

Tales such as Elmedin's are normal in Srebrenica, the community he left on a United Nations refugee convoy on Monday. Tuzla sports hall has been turned into a reception centre for the 2,000 refugees who came from Srebrenica on Monday. Town officials said yesterday that six people had died during and after the journey. Elmedin is lucky because he is one of the few to escape. His father shoved him into the struggling mass of people trying to escape on UN lorries, with his three sisters and brother.

The great majority of children like him are still caught inside the besieged community and continue to suffer many of the horrors that are behind him. Every day more parents, brothers and sisters



Survivor's tears: a Srebrenica woman, among 2,000 rescued, is relieved to be in Tuzla but worried about those still trapped in the town

are wounded or killed. Every day thousands of people go hungry. "We left because the Chetniks were coming," the sandy-haired Elmedin said, referring to Serb fighters. "I

didn't want them to kill me." He spoke as if he were talking about a school bully who frightened him. Twenty days ago Elmedin found his mother lying dead in their

kitchen. He, two of his sisters and his brother came home after an artillery attack to discover her body in a pool of blood on the kitchen floor. "It was easy guns," he said,

meaning that the shelling had been light, although they had waited for an hour after the last explosion before returning home from a neighbour's house. His three-year-

old sister was wounded in the leg during the attack. But his mother had been hit in the head and stomach. "We saw her on the floor and there was blood," he said.

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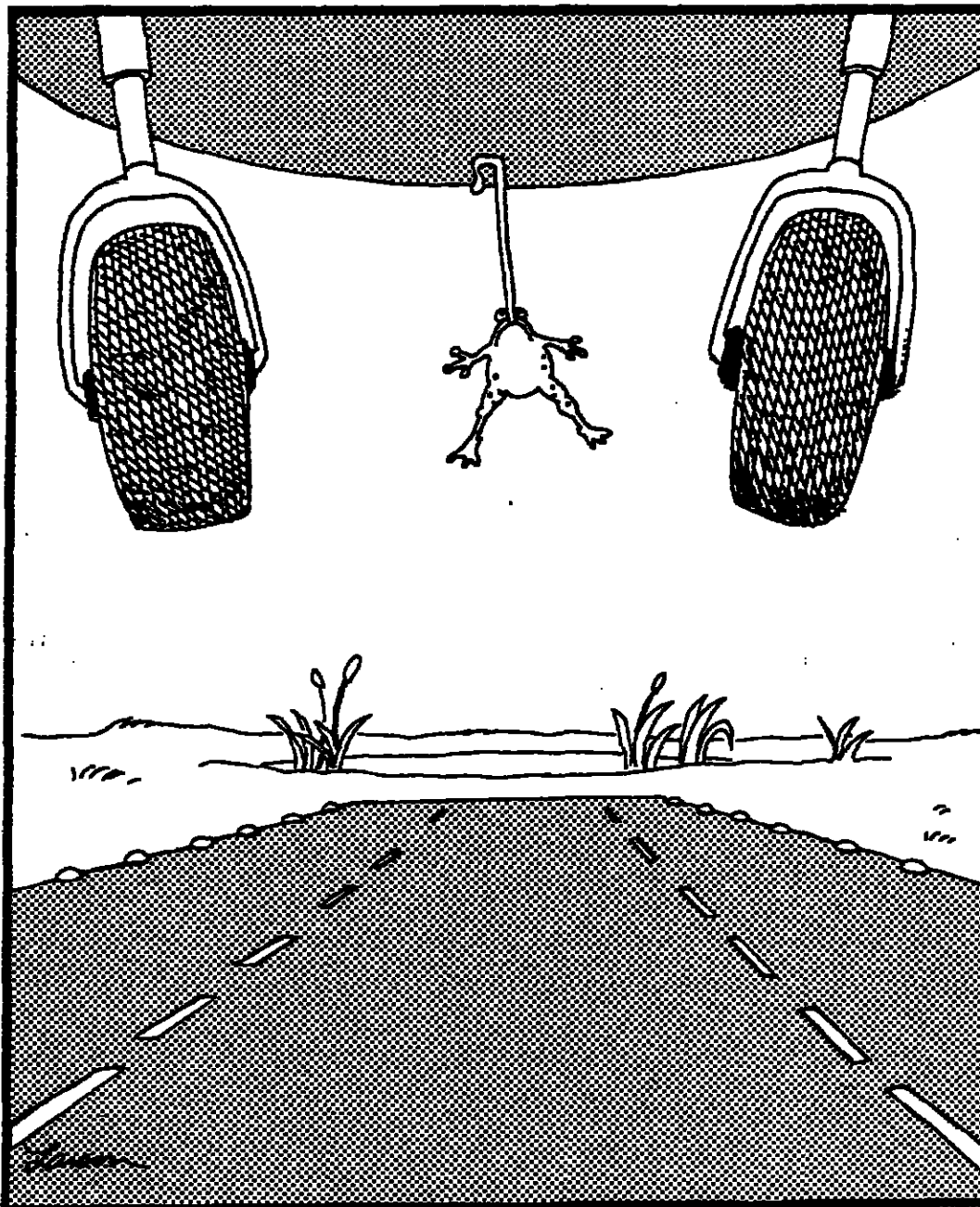
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NATIONAL SAVINGS
SECURITY HAS NEVER BEEN SO INTERESTING.

Italians see Superman and priest in their scandal judge hero



Di Pietro: sleeps with a pistol under his pillow

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS
IN ROME

ITALY'S political convulsions, which now threaten to bring down the government of Giuliano Amato, the prime minister, can be traced to one man: Judge Antonio Di Pietro, the policeman-turned-magistrate who began his investigation into corruption a year ago, setting off an explosion that has rocked the Italian system. Yet Signor Di Pietro was accorded an entry in the Italian *Who's Who* for the first time only this year. The publishers removed the long-standing reference to Bettino Craxi, who resigned as the Socialist party's leader last month after Signor Di Pietro placed him under investigation for corruption. Gianni De Michelis, the former Socialist foreign minister under investigation for alleged misde-

meanours in his native Venice, was also excluded.

History books are being rewritten to immortalise the scandal judge. A year after the *tangentopoli* ("bribe city") enquiry began, the popularity of the investigators is evident. The magistrates themselves, however, are now asking if this is healthy. Floated caricatures of Signor Di Pietro dominated carnival processions in Viareggio and Venice this year. *L'Espresso* magazine depicted the judge as Superman on its cover. *L'Espresso* showed him as a priest hearing the confessions of the corrupt with the headline "How many bribes, my son?" In Turin the *Petri* publishing house printed his picture alongside that of President Scalfaro in its 1993 edition of *Tutoria*, the standard high-school history text.

■ The corruption scandal investigators question if their new fame is worth the price they are being asked to pay in added personal danger

Six million Italians watched a television broadcast of the trial of an alderman in which Signor Di Pietro was the prosecutor. A fan club for the judge has been started, and he receives 150 letters a day from admirers. *Panorama* magazine last year declared that "the Milan judge seems to be the new Italian hero". Other magistrates involved in "Operation Clean Hands", such as Cherardo Colombo, are becoming prominent speakers. In Sariano, a village in the Veneto, thousands turned out to hear Signor Colombo and Antonino Caponnetto, a veteran anti-Mafia judge.

Italian show-business stars, eager not to be upstaged, are jostling to show support for the magistrates. The actor Marcello Mastroianni, receiving the Legion of Honour in Paris, asked: "Why should we call members of parliament 'the honourable' when they are patently not?" The film director Franco Zeffirelli declared: "We need a guillotine in the Piazza del Popolo [in Rome] for the corrupt." The magistrates sometimes find it hard to cope with the limelight. "I hope the magistrature can return to being just another way of regulating daily civil life, to when people

did not care what the magistrates were doing," Signor Colombo said. "I am living through this investigation with great discomfort."

To try to keep the media at bay, Francesco Saverio Borelli, the Milan prosecutor, has banned television crews and photographers from entering the Milan Palace of Justice. A circular to the Clean Hands judges this month asked them not to give interviews, especially to foreign television, "because it could damage the image of Italy".

Public curiosity about the judges remains insatiable. Journalists have begun analysing their horoscopes. In a forthcoming book, *On the Front Line: Nine Magistrates Tell*, Maria Calabro, a reporter for *Corriere della Sera*, points out that Signor Borelli "was born in Naples 63 years ago under the sign of Aries

and perhaps this makes him, as his mother used to say, extremely stubborn".

Italian popular magazines had a field day when Signor Di Pietro's son Cristiano, 19, graduated from the national police academy in Milan, following in his father's footsteps. "When I come home at night, I often find my father dozing on the sofa," the son told *Epoca*. "He sleeps with a pistol under the cushion."

Signor Di Pietro's escort was increased after the killing in Palermo last summer of Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino, the anti-Mafia judges. "My father is not the Mafia judge," his son said. "Even his name now," his son said. "Even his house at Curno seems a bunker with armed men and the garden lit with night and day. I would never be a judge. I wouldn't want to go through what is happening to him."

Rome corruption enquiry claims its seventh minister

BY JOHN PHILLIPS

THE government of Giuliano Amato, the prime minister, appeared to be suffering its death throes last night as Franco Reviglio, the finance minister, became the latest senior cabinet member to resign after being placed under investigation for corruption.

Six other ministers, a quarter of the cabinet, have resigned since the government was formed with a slender 16-seat majority in the Chamber of Deputies nine months ago. There had been persistent rumours that more ministers, including Signor Reviglio, might be forced to resign.

President Scalfaro is anxious to avoid an uncontrolled

■ Giuliano Amato had wanted to soldier on. Signor Reviglio's departure adds to his woes

government collapse in the run-up to the referendum on electoral reform, which is due on April 18. Much of the postwar political system is now in ruins and politicians from across the spectrum are pinning their hopes on the referendum ushering in a new republic. The alternative would be an early general election and further chaos.

The Socialist finance minister is suspected of "receiving stolen goods" during his period as chairman of ENI, the state-run energy corporation. Signor Reviglio had always denied suggestions of wrongdoing during his period at ENI and pointed out that he took the company out of the red. He was informed he was under investigation yesterday after giving evidence voluntarily to Antonio Di Pietro, the magistrate who uncovered the corruption scandal.

Even before Signor Reviglio's name was added to the list of figures under investigation, it seemed inevitable that the prime minister would have to renounce his mandate once the plebiscite was over. Signor Amato's Socialists and the other main coalition partner, the Christian Democrats, have been discredited badly by the corruption scandal sweeping the country for 13 months. The affair has also tarnished the two other coalition members, the Liberals and the Social Democrats.

Mario Segni, the main promoter of the electoral reform referendum, resigned from the Christian Democrats yesterday to form a rival Catholic grouping saying the party had lost its Christian inspiration and "had opened the doors of the republic to the corrupt and the mafiosi".

He made his decision after

Giulio Andreotti, the Christian Democrat former prime minister, was placed under investigation on suspicion of complicity with the Mafia. The Senate is to decide on April 14 whether to lift Signor Andreotti's immunity from criminal proceedings.

During his visit to London this month, Signor Amato told John Major that he still hoped to soldier on beyond the referendum. However, the Democratic Party of the Left, the largest opposition party, is believed to want a new prime minister as the price for joining or supporting a wider alliance.

Signor Amato outraged the opposition last month when he tried unsuccessfully to push through parliament a decree law that would have ended prison sentences for those convicted of breaking the law covering the financing of political parties. It was an error of judgment that was widely interpreted as an attempt to save his mentor Bettino Craxi, the former Socialist leader, from prosecution on corruption charges.

Fighting broke out in the Senate when Signor Amato tried to make a speech justifying the whitewash, and a decree that would have allowed corrupt firms to continue with public works contracts was defeated in the Chamber of Deputies.

Signor Amato was initially widely liked by Italians because of his reputation for honesty when he took office last June. His popularity was eroded by the tough austerity measures he introduced to curb the budget deficit and public debt. With the recession biting hard in key sectors of Italian industry, Signor Amato faced increasing labour unrest including a general strike called for Friday.

Mr Scalfaro emerged as a pillar of strength yesterday, issuing a firm statement as he held consultations on forming a new government. "The moment is certainly difficult and requires the responsibility of us all, of the forces represented in parliament and also of every citizen," he said.

He pledged support for the judges investigating the corruption scandal. "The duty of the magistrature is to clarify responsibility, ascertaining the absolute objectivity and independence of the truth, is difficult enough," he said.



Under pressure: Giuliano Amato, who had a meeting with President Scalfaro of Italy yesterday amid rumours that he is preparing to resign as prime minister

NEWS IN BRIEF

Macedonia likely to join UN

London: Greece agreed yesterday to a United Nations plan to accept Macedonia as a member under a temporary name, but only if the former Yugoslav republic's flag does not fly outside UN headquarters (Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes).

However, the scheme to accept Macedonia under the temporary name "Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" to placate Athens has prompted political turmoil in the Macedonian capital, Skopje, where an emergency debate on the issue will be held today. Officials in Skopje said last week the government was ready to accept the plan, provoking sharp reaction among opposition politicians.

Killer jailed

Madrid: Angel Dure, a former policeman who shot dead a radical Basque parliamentarian in November 1989, was sentenced to almost 100 years in jail here. (Reuters)

Double death

Moscow: Two worldwars in Tajikistan vying for power in the Tajik Popular Front, killed each other in a shoot-out that left up to 17 people dead in the volatile Central Asian republic. (Reuters)

Troops protest

Abidjan: troops protesting about pay occupied the Ivory Coast's presidential palace for a third day while President Houphouët-Boigny was guarded by loyalists at his suburban home. (Reuters)

New leader

Kinshasa: President Mobutu of Zaire has appointed Faustin Birindwa as prime minister, the latest in a series of prime ministers appointed by the dictator after pressure to institute reforms. (AFP)

Migrant police

Bonn: German states, concerned about rising crime in their migrant communities, are hiring Turks and other foreigners for their police forces for the first time. (Reuters)

UN man dies

Phnom Penh: Cambodian government soldiers fatally shot M.A. Rouf, a UN staff member from Bangladesh, in one of six overnight shootings in the capital. (AFP)

Bars closed

Maastricht: Giltie bars and other suspected prostitution fronts, including karaoke bars, in the Ermita tourist district here have been banned to improve the city's image. (AFP)

Squabbling begins among the new Paris team

FROM CHARLES BREMNER
IN PARIS

EDOUARD Balladur, the prime minister of France's new "cohabitation" government, struggled yesterday to draw a cabinet from the pool of would-be leaders in the family of conservative parties. In the meantime, the political world wondered how he would weather a looming conflict over Europe with fellow Gaullists.

Mr Balladur, a courtly neo-Gaullist who has spent much of his career making deals in the political shadows, took over last night from Pierre Berégovoy, at the Hôtel Matignon, the prime minister's residence. There were, however, signs that he had run into obstacles after a two-day transition to power-sharing that had been notable for its speed and lack of tension.

The new prime minister was reported to be facing objections from the UDF (centre-right party), the junior partner in the government, over his wish to give the posts of foreign and interior ministers to two senior Gaullists: Alain Juppé and Charles Pasqua.

Although Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the UDF chief and former president, does not want any posts in the government, he has insisted that his party should hold the foreign ministry or another key portfolio. François Léotard, the leader of the Parti Républicain, a component of the UDF, has been campaigning hard for the foreign job.

The presence of M Pasqua in the interior ministry,

which he occupied in the last "cohabitation", would signal a return to tough policies on crime and immigration. A hardline Gaullist and anti-Maastricht campaigner, M Pasqua's manner is as blunt and aggressive as M Balladur's is soothing.

In the foreign post, M Juppé, 47, secretary-general of the RPR (Gaullist) party, has demonstrated sufficient pro-European credentials to satisfy President Mitterrand's condition that the new government must not retreat on the Maastricht treaty.

With "cohabitation" underway, the stage is set for M Balladur's policy statement to parliament at the end of the week, an occasion that will signal whether the new government will pick a

fight with its European partners. Any domestic quarrel is likely to be between M Balladur and Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist chief, rather than between prime minister and president.

A staunch supporter of the policy of the strong franc and the Maastricht treaty, M Balladur is eager to strike an understanding with Bonn that would link lower German interest rates with a move to give semi-independence to the French central bank.

M Chirac, however, has upset Germany with an aggressive stance on Europe. In calculating their moves, the Gaullist-led team must take account of M Mitterrand's reminder on Monday that, under the constitution, he remains the steward of

French foreign policy and will tolerate no straying from the path of European integration. M Chirac has said he recognises no such "pre-eminence".

M Chirac, who is campaigning to take M Mitterrand's job in the next presidential election, says the president must submit himself to the wishes of the majority in parliament. With the potential for conflict looming large, Gaullist experts called yesterday for an overhaul of the way France conducts its foreign policy.

More jobless: French unemployment broke through the politically sensitive three million level in February for the first time, to 3,024,000 (10.6 per cent of the workforce), the labour ministry said yesterday. (Reuters)

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Confusion over referendum proposals

Yeltsin supporters fear poll apathy

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN
IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin met his diminishing group of parliamentary supporters yesterday, and the agenda included how many polls will be held in Russia on April 25.

Some deputies reportedly suggested that the president should hold his own plebiscite alongside the one hijacked by parliament. The battle between partisans of the two variants is expected to dominate Russian politics in the coming weeks, as well as Moscow.

The president wants three questions in the plebiscite: on confidence in his presidency; on whether there should be a new constitution vesting executive power in the presidency; and on private ownership of land, a key element in the economic reform process, currently blocked by parliament. As part of an abortive compro-

mise with the Congress of People's Deputies, Mr Yeltsin also agreed to questions on early elections for president and parliament.

A referendum on the basis for a new constitution had originally been agreed as part of an earlier compromise between president and parliament during the Congress in December. Russian Khasbulatov, the parliamentary speaker, later denounced the agreement, calling it "the work of the Devil".

Conservative deputies clearly feared that, given the congress's unpopularity, a referendum might give the president victory. However, some supporters of Mr Yeltsin began to fear that it might backfire, especially if some of the autonomous republics boycotted the polls and denied the legitimacy of the results: this could be a step towards Russia's disintegration.

Many liberals also fear that a disgruntled and apathetic electorate might stay at home, particularly if there were two conflicting polls. According to participants in yesterday's meeting, Mr Yeltsin himself inclined to this view.

The question of voter participation is central to the difference between Mr Yeltsin's and congress's variants of the poll. The congress wants to make it a formal referendum in which a "yes" vote would require an absolute majority of all registered voters — something that will be very hard for Mr Yeltsin to achieve.

Mr Yeltsin wants to make it only a "plebiscite", requiring a majority of those who turn up to vote, who in turn have to be a majority of registered voters. Most deputies, after having denounced the whole idea of a referendum, have now returned to it precisely so as to block Mr Yeltsin's plebiscite. The new referendum agreed

by congress retains the vote of confidence in Mr Yeltsin, but drops his questions on land ownership and constitutional change. It contains questions on early elections, but without saying when these should be.

The most potentially damaging question for Mr Yeltsin asks: "Do you approve the government's social and economic policy since 1992?" For while opinion polls suggest that most Russians still have residual confidence in the president, it is equally clear that the great majority have seen their living standards and security fall steeply over the past year, and blame the government.

The congressional referendum therefore threatens an absurd result, in which the people support Mr Yeltsin while throwing out his programme. Such an outcome would certainly be rejected by Mr Yeltsin, and would further discredit democracy.

US hopes to pay more than lip service to aid Russian reform

BY MARTIN FLETCHER AND JOANNA PITMAN

THE Clinton administration is likely to ask congress for at least \$1 billion in aid to Russia next year, more than double the present figure, and tomorrow the president is expected to launch a campaign to persuade a sceptical American public that aid of that magnitude is essential.

The money would be used for a range of programmes which Mr Clinton will unveil at his Vancouver summit with Boris Yeltsin this weekend, and which will be targeted primarily at groups whose support is critical to the Russian president's reform programme. Officials said the programmes were expected to include housing for troops brought back from Eastern Europe, an enterprise fund to help small businesses, and support for Russian farmers.

The bilateral US aid package is separate from a multilateral aid programme which the

administration is developing in conjunction with other members of the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations. Last week US officials suggested that the G7 should use the International Monetary Fund to provide as much as \$13.5 billion (\$9.6 billion) a year to Russia in aid.

But Americans are facing the largest tax increases in their history and deep new spending cuts to reduce the US deficit, and a Newsweek poll showed that 75 per cent were opposed to further Russian aid.

Wary of being accused by its G7 partners of dragging its feet in the effort to rescue President Yeltsin, Japan is doing its utmost to appear cooperative. Through grudging lip service to western calls for support for the man who snubbed Japan last summer by cancelling a visit at short

notice and who has refused to discuss Tokyo's longstanding claim to the Russian occupied Kurile Islands, off its northern shores, Japan's conflicting emotions are proving hard to reconcile. This week a rift developed within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party between those willing to be cooperative for the sake of good relations with G7 partners and those who are convinced that no good will come of helping Mr Yeltsin.

Mitsuo Watanabe, the foreign minister, who leads the anti-aid faction, and is on record referring to Mr Yeltsin as a liar, was quoted yesterday in the *Nihon Keizai Shimbun* as saying that Japan should not take any initiative giving aid to Russia. Unable to resist a dig at his G7 partners, he added: "Other developed countries push for aid to Russia but none of them are actually trying to support it."

Sanctions against Baghdad

Britain and US drop insistence that Saddam has to go

By JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK AND EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN and America have backed down from their earlier insistence that President Saddam Hussein must leave office before there can be any relaxation of United Nations sanctions against Iraq.

John Major and George Bush, the former American president, had undertaken not to lift any of the sanctions imposed on Iraq in the wake of the Gulf war while Saddam remained in power. "Britain will veto any UN resolution designed to weaken the sanctions regime we have set in place for so long as Saddam Hussein remains in power," the prime minister promised the Scottish Conservative party conference in Perth in May 1991.

At the regular 60-day review of sanctions in the UN Security Council on Monday, however, Britain and America pointedly avoided linking the lifting of sanctions with the removal of Saddam.

The shift in strategy came yesterday as Mr Major and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, met leaders of the Iraqi National Congress, a coalition of Kurds, Shi'as, Sunnis and other opposition movements that are dedicated to the overthrow of Saddam. The congress is intent on winning international recognition and yesterday's talks were its first with any Western leaders.

President Clinton is reported to have written to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, urging the Riyadh government to meet a similar congress delegation in the capital. A British government spokesman said after the meeting with the congress leaders in London: "They deserve our encouragement and that of others." The group had made progress towards forming a "representative alternative to the current regime", the spokesman added.

The delegation included Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, Baharu Uloom, a leader of the Shia uprising in Iraq two years ago, and Hassan al-Naqibi, a former Sunni general.

Whitehall and Washington sought yesterday to play down the shift in emphasis on Saddam, which is believed to reflect the West's fears that Iran now poses a greater threat than Iraq to continuing peace. Britain emphasised that sanctions would not be lifted until Iraq complied with all UN resolutions. It was made clear that this was a stand that had not changed and would not change whatever government was in power in Baghdad.

A government spokesman said: "Iraq must comply fully with all its international obligations. The situation is, however, that Saddam Hussein is unlikely to comply with UN demands." Saddam's overthrow was not part of the many security council resolutions imposed on Iraq before and after the Gulf war, the government said. Instead, the two key partners in the Gulf war coalition delivered a "laundry list" of demands contained in UN resolutions with which Iraq has not complied.

Diplomats said the intention was to "depersonalise" the conflict, which the Clinton administration in Washington believes had developed into a battle of wills between the former president and the Iraqi leader.

The policy reversal, however, was surrounded by confusion because Washington first abandoned plans to make it plain at an open meeting of the security council and then cancelled an intended statement by Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, because it feared there would be an adverse public reaction.

Mr Christopher finally went on American television on Sunday to explain the administration's new position. "To the extent we are depersonalising it, it is only because we want those resolutions to be obeyed not only by Saddam Hussein but by whoever comes after him," Mr Christopher said.

The climbdown raises the possibility that the UN embargo could be relaxed while Saddam is still in power to encourage Iraq to accept long-term monitoring of its defence industries, as UN resolutions require.



Restraint hands: Israeli police arrest a Jewish settler at a Jerusalem demonstration calling for more security after attacks on settlers. Yesterday two policemen were shot dead near the town of Hebron in northern Israel, prompting the government to seal off the occupied West Bank (Ben Lyndfield writes). Britain said the increase in violence must not be allowed to derail the Middle East

peace process. A spokesman said Britain had urged the "moderate Palestinian leadership" to do what it could to reduce the violence and had "severely criticised the conduct of Israeli defence forces in the occupied territories and have urged Israelis to do all they can to prevent casualties and to lighten the weight of the occupation". The Israeli cabinet secretary, Elyakim Rubinstein, said:

"The goal of the closure [of the West Bank] is to bring about more security and less friction among people with potential for violence." He conceded that the move, to go into effect at midnight, would affect large numbers of Palestinians not involved in violent attacks. "This is the price of terrorism which emanates from there." A cell of the Hamas Islamic Resistance movement, which rejects

Arab-Israeli peace talks, took responsibility for the attack on the policemen, in wall posters in the Gaza Strip town of Rafah, but their claim could not be verified. Earlier this week the 800,000 residents of the Gaza Strip were barred from entering Israel after a stabbing. About 130,000 Palestinians commute from the West Bank and Gaza Strip to jobs in Israel.

Old friends search for Cyprus peace

By EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT Clerides of Cyprus was meeting his old friend Rauf Denktaş, the Turkish-Cypriot leader, for informal talks in New York yesterday, amid hopes that their long-standing personal relationship would set in train the reunification of the divided country. Their meeting came as concern grew in the island over the cut in the number of United Nations troops stationed there.

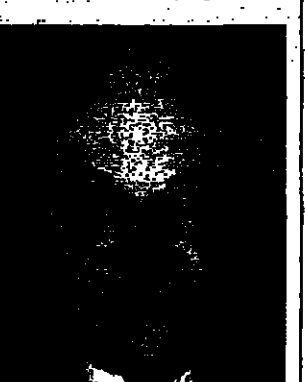
Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, has invited the two men, who both trained as lawyers in London, to decide the date and format of a new round of talks. Yesterday's was their first important meeting since Mr Clerides defeated George Vassiliou in the presidential elections in the Greek-Cypriot south last month.

Mr Clerides and Mr Denktaş are also old sparring partners from the inter-communal talks held from 1968 to 1976 and it is believed that that could help the UN peace effort. "Clerides believes face-to-face, off-the-record talks could help create a suitable atmosphere," a government source said in Nicosia yesterday.

Mr Clerides has said, how-

ever, that a further reduction in UN troops could lead to increased tension. A year ago there were 2,100 troops in Cyprus, compared with 1,500 today. Between June and September, 500 Canadians are to leave the UN force and there are reported doubts about the long-term commitment of 400 Austrians there. Each country pays for its own contingent and Canada says it can no longer afford to stay. Denmark withdrew its peacekeepers in December.

Mr Denktaş said that yesterday's meeting was intended to "understand the point of view" of Dr Boutros Ghali.



Clerides: supporter of off-the-record talks

Mubarak seeks Western help to hold extremist foes at bay

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

PRESIDENT Mubarak of Egypt begins a visit to London today, seeking support for his regime, which is at risk from domestic enemies, notably armed Islamic militants.

Mr Mubarak's role as a middleman in the Israeli-Arab peace process and efforts to resolve the international dispute with Libya over the Lockerbie bombing increases Western anxieties that he might be assassinated or deposed. "The thought of what might happen in the Middle East if he was to be replaced by an Islamic regime is too nightmarish to contemplate," remarked one Nato diplomat. "Egypt's stability is the cornerstone of the West's policy for the region."

The Islamic militants allegedly behind the series of bombings in Egypt want to weaken the economy sufficiently that Mr Mubarak's regime can be replaced by a theocracy. They have Iranian and Sudanese backing.

The nature of any British support for Mr Mubarak to help his struggle against the militants was unclear last night. "It may well be something he raises," a government spokesman said, "but we will have to wait to hear what he has to say."

As well as the deprivations of the poor, there is discontent among Egypt's middle classes over alleged corruption, economic mismanagement, political repression and disrespect for human rights.

There have, however, been some hopeful signs in the economy: inflation is in single figures and the balance of payments in healthy surplus, but unemployment stands at 20 per cent and could rise sharply as a result of much-needed public sector reforms.

The response to last year's earthquake is widely seen as having tipped the struggle in favour of the fundamentalists. Mr Mubarak's opponents were quick to provide humani-

tarian aid and taunted slow-moving relief officials with their slogan "Islam is the solution". Iranian sources believe that, should Mr Mubarak be toppled by Muslim fundamentalists, the poor, and intellectuals angered at political repression, other Arab regimes could fall.

□ Bomb suspected: Islamic extremists were suspected of having struck the Pyramids yesterday after an explosion inside one of the monuments injured two Egyptian workmen and narrowly missed a group of Russian visitors. There were conflicting accounts of the incident, with officials claiming it was the result of an electrical fault. But they said that 35 people had been detained for questioning.

The campaign of bombings has cut tourist bookings by more than 50 per cent. Yesterday the Islamic Group delivered what it claimed was a final warning to visitors and businessmen to leave Egypt.

Arabs hold back for more Israeli offers

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER

THE future of the fragile Middle East peace talks remained in the balance yesterday as the Arabs postponed a decision on whether to attend the next round on April 20 in Washington.

Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and the Palestine Liberation Organisation said after talks in Damascus that the decision would be delayed until they met again next month. In the meantime intense diplomacy is expected in an attempt to win more concessions from Israel on the central obstacle of Palestinian deportations.

In Cairo, Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, told a news conference that the Middle East was now at a "historic crossroads" between a just and balanced peace and a bitter struggle that would affect security in the region and in the world.

The mainstream Palestinians affiliated to the PLO are divided over whether enough has been offered yet to induce them back to the negotiations

they have been boycotting since 415 Palestinians were expelled from Israel last December. Palestinians affiliated to Islamic groups whose strength is growing oppose talking to the Israelis.

Syria, the most powerful Arab state involved in the talks, has emerged as the partner most anxious to continue in the hope that eventually it will win back the whole of the Golan Heights, captured by Israel in 1967. President Assad of Syria has insisted repeatedly that he will not make a unilateral peace with Israel as President Sadat of Egypt did in 1979.

Senior Arab diplomatic sources claim that the Palestinians need a face-saving formula to allow them to resume talking. Much will hang on a meeting in Washington early next month between President Clinton and President Mubarak, the key middle-man in efforts to save the deadlocked process begun in Madrid 17 months ago.

Patterson heads for narrow Jamaica win

By DAVID ADAMS

JAMAICA'S Percival Patterson appeared to be heading for a narrow victory in yesterday's general election after overcoming a late challenge from the opposition Jamaica Labour Party led by Edward Seaga, the veteran former prime minister.

Mr Patterson, 54, dubbed the "Fresh Prince" by his People's National Party (PNP), was expected to hold the prime minister's post he inherited from Michael Manley who resigned a year ago while in office.

Voting opened amid rising concern about violence that crept into an otherwise peaceful campaign in the final days. Fights broke out at several Kingston polling stations and local radio reports said at least two people were stabbed. Bal-

lot papers were stolen at two voting stations, in one case after only 33 people had voted.

Last weekend, four people were killed in election violence, including an election official, bringing to 12 the number of politically related deaths in less than a month of campaigning.

Late predictions indicated that the ruling PNP was sure to win at least 27 seats in the 60-seat parliament, and possibly as many as 40.

Opinion polls have consistently shown Mr Patterson to be leading comfortably, but, with 30 per cent of voters undecided, the race has remained tight. Analysts believe that the deciding factor could be race: Mr Patterson is black, as are most Jamaicans. Mr Seaga is white.

South Africa negotiators split over control of armed groups

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

SERIOUS differences now divide the South African government and its principal negotiating partner, the African National Congress, over control of the various armed formations which are plaguing national life.

The differences are likely to become a cause of bitter contention at the multiparty constitutional talks which begin in Johannesburg tomorrow, since the government has insisted on the question of increasing violence being high on the meeting's agenda.

Unless progress is made it is possible that negotiations, intended to speed progress towards a non-racial democracy in the country, could collapse. The question of violence has always been high on the ANC

agenda, but was not given priority by the government until black gunmen began attacking whites in a series of apparently random raids on schoolchildren and commuters, in the area just south of here and in the Eastern Cape. Now President de Klerk and his ministers are under pressure from National Party supporters to take action against the groups threatening whites.

The focus is on guerrilla armies attached to black liberation movements such as the ANC's armed wing Umkhonto we Sizwe (known as MK), the Spear of the Nation, or the Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLA), the armed wing of the Pan Africanist Congress. There have been calls for the disbandment of

both and for the handing over of their arms caches, which have been refused.

The ANC now looks forward to the time when MK and Apla are integrated into a new non-racial defence force, and this week laid out a detailed plan for the steps towards this eventual goal. Ramaphosa, the ANC general secretary, made it plain at a press briefing that the ANC regarded the South African Defence Force as just another partisan armed formation, rather better equipped perhaps, but no less disliked and feared by the black community than MK or Apla are by the whites.

Mr Ramaphosa proposed that when a transitional executive council was agreed at the constitutional negotiations, it would take joint control of all these armed formations.

After the election of a constituent assembly, and the installation of an interim government of national unity, a new defence force could be created.

Mr Ramaphosa's scenario was instantly rejected by the government. Hermus Kriel, the law and order minister, was quick to tell parliament in Cape Town: "We are not interested in joint control over criminals. We are not interested in joint control over illegal weapons."

□ Cape Town: A South African judge, probing political violence, has set a 10-day deadline for evidence from radical black opposition groups to contest evidence of guerrilla attacks on whites.

Judge Richard Goldstone has appealed for testimony from the PAC and its armed wing. (Reuters)

Killers confess in Hanging Rock broadcast

FROM ROBERT COCKBURN IN SYDNEY

AUSTRALIANS were shocked last night by the broadcast of horrific telephoned murder confessions by two gunmen besieged by armed police in a remote farmhouse in northern New South Wales. Four people have been shot or stabbed to death, including a pregnant girl of 14 whose body was found burnt near Dalby in southern Queensland.

The trail of killings began on Sunday in Queensland before the gang of three men drove to Mandralie in New South Wales, where the bodies of three men were found yesterday. The gunmen have

now released four Aboriginal children they had taken hostage on Sunday. They were responding to pleas by the children's father.

Yesterday, the men were besieged by police at a deserted farmhouse at Hanging Rock near Cangal, where shots were heard last night. Yesterday afternoon, the gunmen told radio interviewers who telephoned the farmhouse that they wanted to die in a shoot-out, killing as many policemen as possible. One gunman is aged about 50, the other is in his teens. A third gang member, a man of 22, was released from the farmhouse into police custody yesterday.

Speaking in a soft and almost polite voice, one of the gunmen described himself as a psychopath motivated to kill by his wrongful arrest in South Australia. "I do not under any circumstances want to come out of here alive. You understand that?" he said. Told on the telephone that he should not



add to the four killings, the man replied: "We might be adding to it today, that's for sure. I'll take as many of them [the police] out as I can. They rigged some charges on us. The whole reason why we are doing this, killing all these people, is what those sons of bitches done to us." He said that they had killed the three men because they wanted their car.

The other besieged gunman, who identified himself as Robert Steele, spoke of the first murder — of a helicopter mechanic — on Sunday at Mount Isa, a mining town in northern Queensland. He said: "The bloke got his throat slit, two shots in the head. We need the money."

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£25,000+	6.90	5.18	6.75
£10,000+	6.55	4.91	6.40
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£50,000+	6.80	5.10	6.60
£25,000+	6.55	4.91	6.35
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HALIFAX

31st March 1993

As John McCarthy and Jill Morrell say they will marry, two extracts from a new book question the whole institution



Public eyes: Morrell and McCarthy may marry at St Bride's, where candles were lit for his release

Rainbow seen through rose-tinted glasses

Is the McCarthy-Morrell story giving a hungry public the real truth or only half of it, Peter Millar wonders

When Granada television approached John McCarthy 18 months ago hoping for co-operation on their acclaimed drama-documentary using him as a central figure to tell the story of the hostages' ordeal in Beirut, the answer was uncharacteristically abrupt.

McCarthy said no. He then proceeded to make clear in no uncertain terms that he was unhappy about the whole *Hostages* production and would like it to go away. There were two interpretations: first, that McCarthy was reluctant to have an experience he regarded as a deeply personal trauma aired in public, and secondly, that he was angry Granada might steal the thunder he hoped to create with his own book.

Now thunder machines are working overtime with the launch of the book, *Some Other Rainbow*, co-written with Jill Morrell who headed the campaign for his release, hyped as "the publishing event of the decade". It has even spawned one of those great Fleet Street institutions — a tabloid war — with the book's serialisation in the *Daily Express* preempted by the *Daily Mail's* expert rewrite men working overtime in the cuttings library.

But has McCarthy really come clean or is coyness, masquerading as English reticence, still conniving with commercialism to produce a rosy glow rather than the real story? The obvious tabloid tendency is to turn the whole brutal hostage business, with its undertones of political ineffectuality and public relations bungling, into an intimate soap opera drama with a happy ending. But despite the selling power of such a formula, even the *Express* has been reluctantly fled to note that the happy couple "understandably" do not want to talk

about the process of rediscovering their love, and that John "understandably" gets affronted when asked when they plan to marry.

Yet the fact that they do — albeit without the where and when — is the headline story. Trying to live down celebrity status and still make money out of it is a cleft stick indeed. There is an almost stage-English quality to McCarthy's reticence to discuss things personal. One of the presumed cathartic moments in their relationship was that first embrace after five years when McCarthy was brought to RAF Lyneham. It was a moment when Morrell apparently recognised even the smell of his skin. Yet we are now told that in their book McCarthy hardly mentions it.

Similarly, McCarthy's relationship with Brian Keenan appears still to be a difficult subject. The strong bond of friendship, even love, between two men who spent most of five years imprisoned together, often ever chained together, is obviously hard for the Englishman to talk about. When Keenan gave a moving testimony to his affection for McCarthy, John recalls that even then, still in Beirut, he was deeply embarrassed thinking: "Obviously, he loves me and that's great, but it seems odd he's telling the world." As they listened over a crackly radio, fellow hostage Terry Anderson hugged him with typically American largesse and said: "He loves you, man, don't be ashamed." McCarthy admits the tears were streaming down his face but feels obliged to add: "I thought it was all a bit of a hoot. Probably it was that stiff upper-lip English trait

that stops us showing our emotions."

Keenan's own book, *An Evil Cradling*, was published late last year to critical acclaim and has been an unexpectedly long stay on the bestseller lists, primarily — and unusually for memoirs — due to its remarkable literary quality. Keenan can really write. Even the title of his book laid down a poetic challenge to the other hostage memoirists. Morrell and McCarthy chose the phrase "Some Other Rainbow" from a particularly apt song by Van Morrison.

Morrell confesses at least that at one time she felt a real jealousy over Keenan, who had spent five years with "her" man in an intimacy she had never really known. She recalls thinking "this is the real love story", an attitude which she now, however, dismisses as "irrational and silly". Maybe. But it is also an open secret in the media world that the McCarthy-Morrell ménage has not always been the "made-in-heaven" match the public would like to imagine. Keenan in his book related how McCarthy had boasted of his Beirut girlfriends, to which he replied: "I've been running out of women to think about and now I've got all yours to sleep with for the next week or two."

It is also hinted that Morrell, despite her dogged determination to keep McCarthy's case in the public eye, had not taken a vow of chastity, particularly during the period when she publicly downgraded her status from "John

McCarthy's girlfriend" to "friend". In 1989, while stressing that she would wait for him, she admitted publicly: "I can't live like a nun forever." Their restrained public statements about their relationship since his release have seemed part of a sensible process of reacquaintance, a "heading in the right direction" that was probably a euphemism for reappraising their relationship.

And in that light the sudden announcement that they intend to marry (though are not yet formally engaged) and have children (though McCarthy does not yet feel ready for them, and Morrell is already 35) seems timed a mite too tritely to coincide with their book publication. Both say they intend to return to full-time journalism, an ambition that will no doubt be tempered by how much money the book brings in. But McCarthy also reveals that since his release there have been times when he envied the high-profile exposure Morrell received, on his account — her meetings with politicians at home and abroad, from Geoffrey Howe to Yasser Arafat, the sort of access he, as a small-time reporter for a relatively obscure television news agency, never enjoyed.

In the meantime they are getting the background right: they are living together "in the depths of Oxfordshire", where an increasing number of media folk routinely retreat; and in so far as there is serious talk of a wedding, they speculate on holding it in St Bride's, Fleet Street, where candles were lit for McCarthy in captivity, but also where media folk routinely get hitched.

For better or worse, the John and Jill soap is on the road good and proper. Can it be long before they get a mid-morning chat show together? My mother would love it. She's already an addict of the soap.

The trap of romance

It is a paradox that while men and women have greater freedom than ever before to remain unmarried, they are not exercising this choice. This is especially true of men. A major reason is the emergence of an intimate connection between marriage, romantic love and sex. It is this connection that has turned marriage into a mainly psychological institution.

In the Victorian era, and for some time before, most men believed that married women had no sexual desire. As women themselves widely shared this notion, married men were free to seek sexual fulfilment from prostitutes. Almost one third of young women in mid-19th century London were full-time prostitutes. But, by the start of the 20th century, nearly 80 per cent of women got married.

For the first time in Western history, both men and women had the opportunity and the motivation to seek sexual fulfilment within marriage. The new popular idea of romantic love meant that they began to seek emotional fulfilment also.

The effect of men's behaviour toward women they fell in love with was generally to make the women feel guilty. In reality, it was impossible for a woman to live up to a man's idealised image of her. The more she tried, the more she failed, and the more guilty she felt. This was part of the corruption of the true feminine principle. For a woman, the experience of being the object of a man's passionate adoration was an unsettling and disturbing one — until she either escaped or yielded. If she yielded, the next step was marriage.

The idea of romantic, passionate love as a necessary

Marriage can be an unbalanced pairing that works against the possibility of true equality

preliminary to marriage has become a tyranny. It makes true companionship between men and women almost impossible to achieve. But the idea is so firmly entrenched that most men change their views only when they discover for themselves that falling in love is not always the best basis

The effect of the behaviour of men in love was to make women feel guilty.

for an enduring relationship. This often occurs in the context of separation or divorce.

Although divorce for many women with young children means near-poverty, women's post-divorce emotional adjustment is superior to that of men's. This underlines the extent to which marriage sustains men's emotional well-being.

With so many difficulties confronting them, it is not surprising that men are more

likely than women to remarry early in an attempt to avoid the pain of self-examination and psychological change.

Can romantic, passionate love survive true equality of the sexes? I believe not. Just consider two of the minimum requirements for equality.

First, all families must have ready access to high-quality, safe and affordable child care. Second, all men must have ready access to part-time work. Many men would like to be able to work reduced hours at particular times in their lives, and especially when their children are young. But current work practices mean that at this stage of the family life-cycle wives are likely to be out of the workforce, or working only part-time.

Better opportunities for job sharing between men and women, and perhaps especially between husbands and wives, would help remedy this gross inequality for men.

Clearly, we remain a very long way from creating even the most basic requirements for true equality between the sexes. But should we ever achieve it, what might we expect of relationships between men and women?

With true equality between them, both sexes would be able to more freely acknowledge and express their opposite gender characteristics. Romantic, passionate love would largely vanish. Marriage, if it survived, would be based primarily on the desire for companionship and emotional intimacy.

A world in which romantic, passionate love barely exists may not be very appealing to most people. Perhaps that is why we cling to our traditional ideas of love so fiercely.

Twice as many women than men suffer from anxiety and depressive disorders. And it is not women in general, but mainly married women who contribute to this excess of anxiety and depression: they report levels that are two to three times higher than those of their single counterparts.

The picture that emerges from two of the most studies is clear: overall, the mental health of women deteriorates after marriage. But for men, marriage has the opposite effect, enhancing their mental health, or at least protecting them from the psychological deterioration shown by their unmarried fellows.

A key factor is employment outside the home. Most studies have found that married women who do paid work outside the home do not suffer from an excess of anxiety and depressive disorders: they report levels of 10-12 per cent. The excess is found mainly in married women who have no paid employment outside the home: about 25 per cent of such women report anxiety and depressive disorders.

It is the simple fact that, for most people, paid employment is fundamental to their sense of well-being. As well as requiring regular social interaction with other adults, most people need also to occupy themselves. Paid employment provides a structure within which we can keep busy.

Excluding those in part-time work, which is often insecure, boring, menial and repetitive, it is probable that fewer than 30 per cent of married women are in full-time paid employment. In contrast, the rate for married men in most Western countries is 80-90 per cent.

In western society, the pressure on married women to take primary responsibility for raising their own children, ideally as full-time mothers, is very strong indeed. It comes as a complete surprise to most western women that other societies have a different view of child-raising. This difference is most marked in developing countries, where married women are far too valuable as an economic resource to devote much of their time to child-raising. In the industrial nations women grapple with varying degrees of guilt and conflict about the idea of not raising their own young children on a day-to-day basis.

Why do women choose to have children? From a purely materialistic viewpoint, it is an amazingly generous thing to do. Pregnancy and childbirth are risky and painful. Child-raising is a demanding and often frustrating task that is largely unpaid and which is incompatible with a full, active role in the workforce or the community at large. Children are very expensive to raise. When they grow up, they may not appreciate or respect their parents. They often move well

Why marriage can be bad for your health

Julian Hafner exposes the myth of wedded bliss and argues that women are pressured into having children



Working mothers are blamed for social ills from delinquency to drug addiction

away from them. Where then are the rewards to parents of years of physical, emotional and financial sacrifice?

In today's Western world, children have relatively high status. They are generally valued, not only in themselves, but for what they may contribute to society in the future. Because we value our children so highly, it is difficult for us to comprehend that historical attitudes to children have been very different.

The modern view developed as the Industrial Revolution and the associated warfare of the 18th and 19th centuries

gained momentum. An endless supply of men and women was needed for factories and cannon fodder. Children became valuable commodities, and mothers became subject to propaganda urging them to take direct personal responsibility for their upbringing.

Efforts by the state to increase the rate of population created incentives that enhanced the survival rate of infants and children. These incentives also included attempts to idealise motherhood, a process that was ultimately very successful. The idealisation of motherhood remains necessary today. In fact, it is more necessary today than it has ever been, because, for the first time in history, most Western women are now free to choose the number of children that they have. Increasingly powerful incentives are required to encourage women to "have enough children to maintain population stability."

One of the most powerful

incentives is the idea of the maternal instinct, a notion that is almost universally accepted. According to this idea, all women have a natural instinct to bring forth and raise children. Unless they do so, they will feel unhappy, frustrated and unfulfilled. Therefore, it is in the best interests of women themselves to have children. The idea of a universal maternal instinct is a myth. It is not based on reality. But it has been systematically perpetuated as part of western nations' obsession with preserving power and status through population growth.

The myth of a universal maternal instinct is unhelpful to women. It puts pressure on them to have children, and to then experience childbirth and child-raising as exclusively pleasant and fulfilling events. The reality for most women is different. Full-time mothers almost inevitably become irritable and frustrated with their young children to the point of screaming at them, an smacking is common. This makes the mother feel guilty, the more so when she has an idealised unrealistic view of motherhood that requires her to be constantly patient, affectionate and nurturing.

Social pressures on women with pre-school children to be full-time mothers are still almost overwhelming. Mothers who work are unfairly blamed for a whole range of social ills, from juvenile delinquency to drug addiction.

There has been a fair amount of research comparing mother care with "other care". There is no evidence that, beyond the age of about 12 months, alternatives to mother care are harmful to children. If anything, the reverse is true: for example, good child-care centres offer a range of opportunities for children's personal growth and development which are beyond a mother on her own.

Furthermore, we must accept that at least a third of mothers experience strongly negative feelings toward their first baby in the first few months after its birth. Although some women accept these feelings as normal, many others view them with alarm and self-doubt. Such experiences contribute to and worsen the post-natal depression that afflicts at least a third of women after the birth of their first baby.

As long as motherhood is portrayed in idealised terms that ignore just how difficult and challenging it really is, many women will react to their first babies in this negative way. But if motherhood was portrayed as it truly is, women might become less willing to have children. This idea brings into question the whole basis of family life.

Extracted from *The End of Marriage: Why Monogamy Isn't Working* by Julian Hafner, published by Century on April 22 (1993)

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Marriage: is it dead?

DR JULIAN HAFNER, the psychiatrist and author of the controversial new book *The End of Marriage: Why Monogamy Isn't Working*, will lead a debate against marriage, supported by Laurie Taylor, professor of sociology at York University.

Rabbi Julia Neuberger and the novelist and broadcaster Bel Mooney will challenge Dr Hafner's view of marriage as damaging and outmoded. The debate takes place on April 21, 7.30pm, at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1. Times readers can obtain tickets (£10, concessions £5) either by completing the coupon, calling at Dillons, 82 Gower Street, London WC1E 6EQ, telephoning (071-915 6612), or faxing (071-580 7680).

This summer, faces will stay fashionably white but tans may gradually appear the further down the body you go

Brown legs not beyond the pale

This week, from the knees downwards, I have a glowing mediterranean tan. I'm sporting this odd parti-coloured look because I've just had to try out Estée Lauder's new Self Action Tanning Spray, mainly because I couldn't believe the ecstatic response it got from the country's top beauty editors.

When it was presented at a press launch, a distinct "aah" went round the room. Coming from these women, it was such a rare show of spontaneous appreciation that I had to crane my neck to see if they really meant it. The surprising thing about beauty editors is that in real life — as opposed to in print — they are actually some of the most sceptical, hyper-hardened types on the magazine circuit.

Where new products are concerned, their habitual, if private, stance is that they've seen it all

heard it all, and disbelieve three quarters of anything pushed their way.

So if this lot genuinely thought Lauder's Self Action Tanning Spray is great, I reasoned, there must be something in it. Sure enough, there is, though the real magic of the product is simply that it's the best way yet invented of delivering the same fake tan we know of old. The spray makes it less messy and easier to apply evenly and though the knock-out smell that used to be associated with the stuff isn't immediately apparent — it is still in there somewhere. Oh yes, and you can now choose from two shades: Medium and Dark.

No great revolution here, then, but clearly a personal must-have for every beauty editor. Still, now that every self-respecting women's magazine exhorts its readers to stay out of the sun and not to tan — why should a product like this cause such excitement? Shouldn't the aesthetic of paleness at last be wiping out the desirability of tanned flesh, especially among the very women who are some of the most-read health informants in the nation?

Oh yes, but dear. We're all human. I don't need to tell you it's the legs that are the sticking point. I don't believe there's a white woman alive who could look at her naked putty-coloured legs this last



SARAH MOWER

day of March and convince herself it would be awfully sound and modern-minded of her to display them thus once the warm weather comes.

Perhaps it's just a question of where we're at now, in a strange

limbo between one fashion and the next. Though the whitening process has, incontrovertibly, started at the top of the body, it will take time — plenty of time — to work its way down to the toes. The face, at any rate, is already emphatically a no-tan zone.

The truth of this was borne in upon me last month when I saw Suzie Bice, a model known for the Snow White contrast between her jet-black hair and pale translucent skin. She'd just come back from the Caribbean and was brown. I was surprised at how shocked I was. I wasn't the only one. The cosmetics company that had booked her for a commercial that week took one look at

the tanned Suzie and cancelled.

Perhaps ordinary folk like us will find it amusing to contemplate the fact that the people who used to be called the jet set — the lucky buggers who can afford to fly around the world pursuing the warm bits as the seasons change — now go to a great deal of trouble to keep their faces out of the sun, wherever they are. Thus Jerry Hall, who spends much of her time in Barbados, is never, ever seen with a facial tan.

Tans no longer convey wealth, leisure and status to the people who have wealth, leisure and status. And we all know what living in St Tropez did to Brigitte Bardot.

It's already true that tanning machines have moved out of West End beauty salons and into the spare bedrooms of Essex — a journey that describes both the deteriorating health reputation of the tan and its social slide. Given how much fashionable women like to look down on their less savvy sisters, it is quite possible that eventually fashion may prove a more powerful weapon against skin cancer than endless health warnings from dermatologists.

Always excepting the great social leveller of the legs, of course. Whether you're a Camilla or a Tracy, you're still going to want them brown this summer, at any rate. Which is why I advise getting down to your department store with your £13.50 this Saturday. When Estée Lauder's Self Action Tanning Spray comes on the market, and buying while stocks last.

What Mr Bush did next

The former president is keeping busy doing the dishes while he seeks a new purpose, reports Martin Fletcher

George Bush slipped back into Washington a few days ago. Came for an award from US defence contractors. No motorcade. No "Hail To The Chief". Looked tanned, rested, ten years younger. Syntax, the same though. Staccato sentences, no pronouns.

"Not talking," he told reporters, a fixed smile on his face. "I'm out of the interview business, which is a very nice thing to be." A moment later he was back, effeminate. "You understand. No interviews. Trying to get back to private life."

One moment Mr Bush was the free world's leader, next he had vanished. Just occasionally he's sighted. Went bass fishing in Alabama. Watched son George's Texas Rangers baseball team train in Florida. Walked one day into a barber's shop in a little town called Penitence, British Columbia, bumped the queue, paid the astonished hairdresser \$20.

Over Valentine's Day week-end he took Barbara and his new video camera on a Caribbean cruise. Approached unwary passengers with the camera rolling till suddenly they recognised who he was. Had the ship in hysterics. Last weekend had Baroness Thatcher to breakfast, then joined Dan Quayle for a celebrity golf match. Damaged a spectator with a wayward drive.

Mr Bush swapped the White House for a rented two-storey white colonial at 11A West Oak Drive in Houston. He now knows what a

supermarket price-scanner is. Shops at the Rice Epicurean Market. Eats at Otto's Bar-B-Q and Molina's Mexican Restaurant. Files economy and drives himself, secret service in tow. "I make the coffee. Barbara makes the beds, and we're right back to square one where we got married when

"There will be a lot of aftermaths in what happened, but we are going forward."

we were 20 years old. She does the cooking and I do the dishes, and life is absolutely wonderful." As he once confessed, he is "not the most articulate emotionalist".

Another Bushism springs to mind: "We're enjoying sluggish times and not enjoying them very much." He was talking of the feeble economy eclipsing his Gulf war victory. Could have been describing his retirement.

Money's no problem. Mrs Bush's \$2.2 million contract for her memoirs boosts his \$187,000 pension. "Recreates" furiously on golf course or tennis court to "decompress". Building a new home, big in the grandchild business, summer in Kenne-

bunkport and foreign travel upcoming, perhaps to be feted in Kuwait. But the wistfulness persists. "I miss certain parts of it. I'd be misleading you if I said I didn't," he said. "I can't say it's total tranquility."

He admits having read a book called *Farewell to the Chief* on the cold turkey experiences of other newly-ex presidents. Tells of a letter from a nine-year-old girl which ended "PS. Nice try". Spends a lot of time "networking", calling old friends in Washington and abroad to find out what's happening. "Information withdrawal," Martin Fitzwater, his old spokesman, called it. Once, while still in office, Mr Bush told reporters: "I've got to run now and relax. The doctor told me to relax. The doctor told me. He was the one. He said relax." That's his problem. Not good at relaxing. Needs a goal.

Others are making money. Mr Quayle heads an Indianapolis think tank, directs the family newspaper business, and has signed a million-dollar book contract. James Baker is senior partner of a law firm, consultant to an investment bank and has also accepted a publisher's offer worth double his total earnings as secretary of state. Mr Fitzwater and Margaret Tutwiler, the former state department spokeswoman, have formed Fitzwater and Tutwiler Inc., strategic communications consultants to the world.

Mr Bush goes to his penthouse office suite at 10000 Memorial Drive, plans his



The next generation: Mr Bush, who is big in the grandchild business, relaxes during his presidency with some younger members of his family

presidential library, advises his former national security adviser, Brent Scowcroft, on setting up his foreign policy institute. With eight staff sifts hundreds of letters daily from well-wishers, kids inviting him to birthday parties, people wanting him to run for president again. Rejects all speak-

ing requests and offers of corporate directorships. He "doesn't want to be seen profiting from the presidency", said Mr Fitzwater. Unlike Mr Ford and Mr Reagan.

So far Mr Bush knows only that he does not want to fill the vacant post of baseball commissioner. "That would come

under the heading of something that interested me the very least in life," said Yale's former captain. "I love the game but I don't need that kind of turmoil, man."

Caught by the end of the pendulum's swing, he has quit politics for good. Didn't even watch Bill Clinton's State of

the Union address, preferring to dine with friends. But he has made peace with his usurper. Promised before leaving office not to criticise or second-guess his successor. "Try to support him," he said. Some say Mr Bush hopes to be a special presidential envoy. Wants to be a "point of light".

The political torch has now passed to a new generation of Bushes. Sons George in Texas and Jeb in Florida are contemplating gubernatorial bids next year. As the paternalist once put it, "there will be a lot of aftermaths in what happened, but we are going to go forward."

The cult of the star crimper

Does a top name guarantee you a cut above the rest or should you settle for the hairdresser in the high street?

Several million-dollar questions were answered by yesterday's Hollywood Oscar ceremony. Who the winners would be, of course, but also what designer frock would they wear and who would do their hair. The West Coast leads the world's cult of the artistically significant hairdresser. There are few more irritating modern figures.

Often of British birth, the artistically significant hairdresser has long since jettisoned his Christian name — be it Warren, Damian, or Kevin — in favour of something more in keeping with the exotica of his surroundings and his clients: José, perhaps, or Giuseppe.

His salon has a private lift leading to a VIP consulting lounge away from prying eyes, but prying reporters are discreetly furnished with his client list. When asked to explain his success, he talks of "taking hair seriously", of being "simply the best", of being, in short, an artist.

The truth is that being a successful hairdresser has precious little to do with art. There is nothing particularly artistic about being able to snip and blow-dry, to colour or curl. These are technical skills requiring digital flexibility, to be acquired like learning how to type.

The notion of hairdressing as an art is a myth peddled by certain crimpers to nourish

their egos and justify their exorbitant prices. It began with the likes of Vidal Sassoon in the 1960s, was adopted by Riccò Burns and John Frieda and found expression in the film *Shampoo* in the 1970s, and has culminated in the ridiculous antics of the stars in Hollywood.

Kim Basinger reportedly paid her colour stylist \$3,000 (£2,000) to fly to California from New York to treat her hair. But if you possess Miss Basinger's luscious blond locks, any corner hairdresser could achieve the same effect, given the right ingredients and a good horse-hair hairbrush.

Sadly, stars and housewives alike have swallowed the myth whole. Hairdressers, they foolishly believe, will transform them. Hence, the plethora of before-and-after shots beloved of women's magazines. The reality is that the good-looking girls remain good-looking in the after shots: their less than good-looking sisters remain just that.

Even otherwise independent thinking women such as Baroness Thatcher have fallen prey to this illusion. Lady Thatcher, when she was plain old Mrs T, would, it is said, always insist on flying her British hairdresser with her on trips abroad, so fearful was she of native talent. The royals are just as bad, slavishly loyal to one hairdresser who they



The art of hairdressing: *Shampoo* encouraged the myth

believe will lead them to the holy grail of the perfect hairstyle.

Here I must confess that I once believed that a new hairdresser could change my life. I would religiously read the beauty pages in the magazines, recording who was the latest bright young stylist, who was truly an artist who would make me into a star, who would deliver nirvana. A new crimp perhaps? A pearl perm? A wedge cut? Only the likes of Trevor Sorbie or Nicky Clarke, the latest toast of hairdressing circles, would do.

Yet unless your name begins with HRH, it is near impossible to book an appointment with the gurus. More often

than not, you are palmed off with an assistant. Even when I was brushed by the stars, the inescapable reality finally dawned on me, the finished effect was no different from that achieved by my local high street hairdresser. I was not Kim Basinger, nor meant to be.

There are only about five or six different hair-styles for women. Of those, most people suit only one, and they secretly know it. More likely than not they are already sporting it. Selina Scott and the Princess of Wales bear witness to the danger of vainly supposing that more than one style suits them. (It is obvious that the Princess of Wales's rather long

face looks good with short hair, while Ms Scott looks best with a neat bob.)

As you get older, the number of styles diminishes still further. Most over-30s do not suit anything longer than shoulder length and can run the risk of looking like mutton-dressed-up as lamb. Hairdresser imagination becomes even more redundant.

Not that a hairdresser will ever tell you that. "I'm thinking of growing it long," you say. "Sure," they reply. "I'm thinking of cutting it short." "Great idea."

The crimper's interest lies in change for change's sake. Their clients are too weak-willed and vain to resist the temptation of a fancy new style, even if they know they will look as though they have been dragged through a hedge backwards.

Hairdressers' salons should be enjoyed for what they do provide: a convivial atmosphere to catch up on back copies of *Tatler*; a pleasing head massage; a shorter, neater version of the style that you know suits you; a good cup of coffee; and a chance to bore on about the trials of one's mother-in-law. Clinical studies show that an hour on the hairdresser's couch is as good as an hour at the psychiatrist's.

Men know this already. Barbers are latter-day men's clubs, providing tips for the races and chit-chat about the famous. Who's ever heard of the chief stylist at Trumplers? Of course not. He knows his place, as technician and confidant, delivering a shorter version of what the client already has, and what suits him best. No stuff and nonsense about delivering stardom.

Now I really must go and confirm that appointment with Nicky Clarke...

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Alan Coren



■ Exclusive: answers to the questions that have kept the nation awake

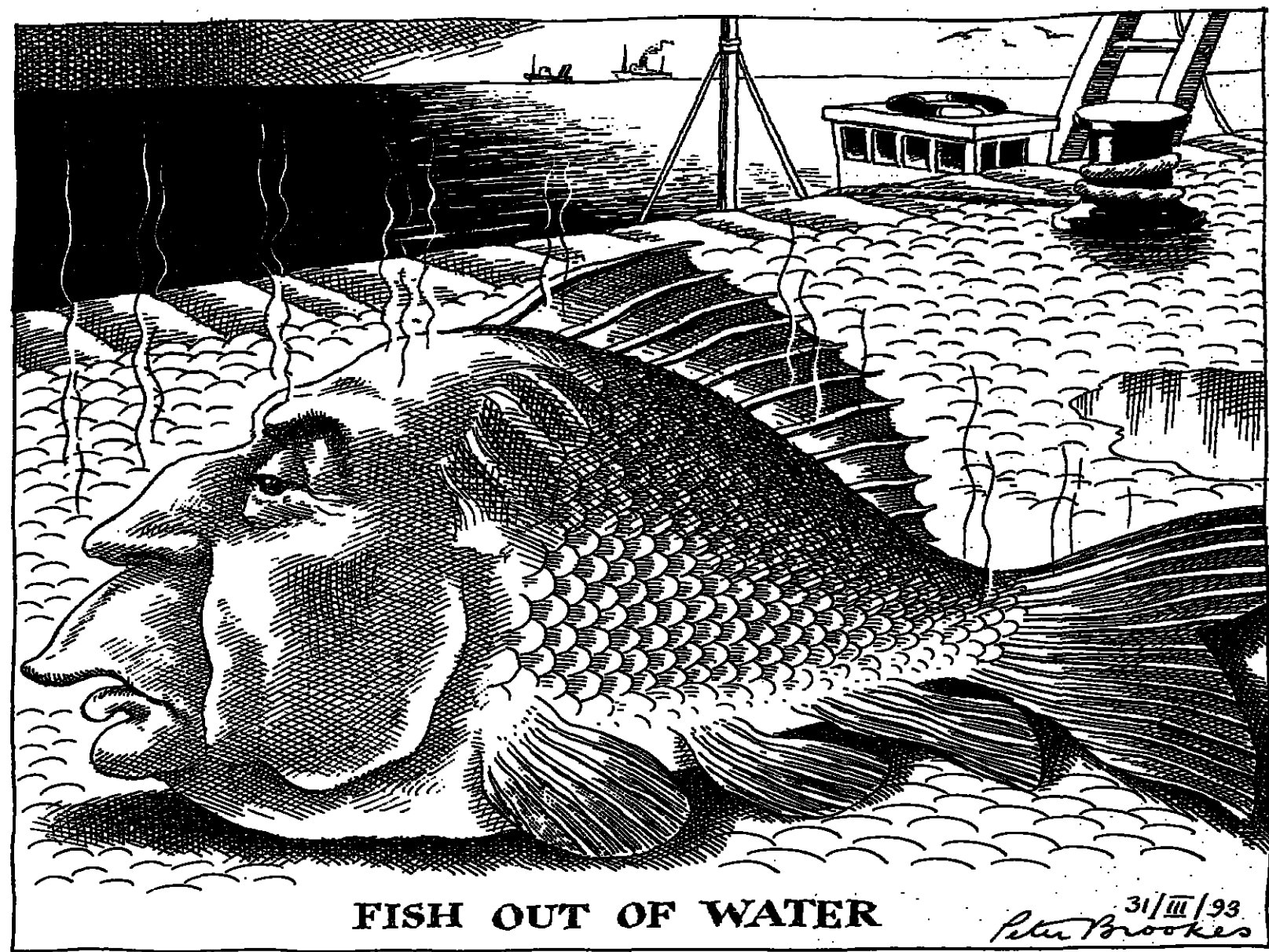
This is a newspaper taken, you will recall, by top people. Now, it is not easy being a top person, balls have to have eyes kept on them, scratches have to be come up to, musters have to be passed, if you are not rapidly to end up as a bottom person. So that the last thing you need, if you are charged with running a corporation, a cabinet, a hospital, is to spend your entire professional day wondering how to attach a pin to a helicopter. Thus I step in to save your career, your sanity, even: for both have been threatened these two days past as the direct fault of *The Times*, and I see it as no more than my duty as an ensign of the 1721st Wapping Light Horse to snatch you from the brink and throw you across my pommel.

On Monday, you read this item in our News in Brief column: "Ken Wills broke his world record for balloon bursting when he used a pin attached to his Jet Ranger helicopter to pop eight balloons in three minutes at Rochester, Kent." You know what happened next. You were stopped in your tracks, where you have since remained: the Bosch-Yamamoto contract lies unsigned on your desk, the draft amendments to the Saveloy Skins (Synthetic) Bill wiles in your PPS's list, the bishop's appendix throbs and wobbles inside him like an overheating diesel, but you are not about to address any of these: you are staring out of the window, trying to fathom how a pin may be attached to a helicopter to see off a balloon every 22.5 seconds. A picture keeps forming in your mind of a helicopter approaching a balloon. The balloon does not stand still; you have seen helicopters, you know what they do, skirts billow, hats blow off. You have seen pins; they do not amount to much. You attempt to envisage where on the helicopter the pin was sited, and how. Poked through from the inside? Glued on from the outside? Taped to a wheel, soldered to the rotor-boss, and by the way, just who is Ken Wills, what kind of man does this kind of thing, is it his own helicopter, if so he must be loaded, but why would so rich a man engage in so bizarre an activity, is he trying to make some point about entering the kingdom of Heaven? Or was Ken not rich at all, had he perhaps escaped from some nice new Rochester asylum just opened by a caring royal whose helicopter had been left briefly unattended on the lawn?

Driven to the edge of madness myself, but realising that unless something was done the nation would come to a mumbled standstill, I rang our newswriter, but they said that was all they had off the PA wire, so I rang the Press Association, but they didn't know, so I rang *Flight*, who suggested *Helicopter International*, who didn't know either, but said that Eilan ay Riys might, he would call me back, and all day Monday, whenever the phone trilled, my ear cocked for a Celtic lilt, but he never rang, so when, after a fitful night, I woke on Tuesday, I called *The Guinness Book of Records*, and they said, "Funny, we are in the process of considering balloon-popping records, but these, of course, are all done with the feet." So I hung up quickly, because that "of course" could spell trouble for an already distracted mind, and phoned Rochester police instead, who directed me to Rochester council's press officer.

Who, thank God, knew. Who said: "Ken Wills is 39, he is the boss of Summit Aviation, he has his own Jet Ranger, and it is not exactly a pin, it is a long sharp effort that sticks out of the helicopter's nose, and the balloons are all tethered to 7 ft poles and he sort of, you know, dives on them, one after another," and I said "Every 22.5 seconds?" and she said, "You had to be there," but it was enough, I had got as close as I was ever going to get, and it would've been all right had I not asked what the occasion was, and she had not replied, "It was our Record-Breaker Festival, we had Brian Horton, too, you might know him, his stage name is Melton Mowbray, he is a fire-eater who was planning to break his own record for breathing a hot-air balloon off the ground only he couldn't do it, due to wind," and it was only after I had thanked her and she had rung off that what she had said sank in.

Or, rather, started floating around. "Due to wind," Don't even think about it. You are top people, and you can't afford to.



FISH OUT OF WATER

31/III/93
Peter Brookes

In for a long trawl

Coal and fish. Miners and sailors. Heseltine and Gummer. You have to admit they produce more glamorous politics than Maastricht and the council tax. A French fleet seizes British officers and a Normandy skipper called Christian le Blond leads 37 ships against a British port. The buccannery John Gummer responds by insulating a bottle of Perrier. Meanwhile back home blackened faces peer out of steaming showers to declare, "That Tarzan's a real booger". Michael Heseltine goes berserk in the Commons. This is what I pay my taxes for.

The week's two rows are identical in all important respects. They are about two declining industries for which central government has decided it must take responsibility. Other industries can go to blazes without a flicker of cabinet concern. But coal and fish send electric shocks through John Major's administration. On dear, they cry, what can we do about fish and coal? What would mother have done?

I am afraid mother did the very thing that they are doing: threw other people's money at the problem. Let us start with fish. A moment of supreme sanity in fishing history came on Monday afternoon when 37 French trawlers sailed into Guernsey's St Peter Port harbour. I notice that some were from St Malo. Their enterprising forebears occupied the Falklands and gave them the name Malvinas. (I hope Mr Major has a submarine off Sark.) The invasion was a typical French flouting of EC rules. But it was "heart of the matter" alternative diplomacy.

At issue was the Channel Islands fisheries agreement of last September, a desperate attempt by Whitehall to salvage the inheritance of William the Conqueror in the seas off Normandy. It had taken some thirty years to negotiate. Its collapse took just six months. These cosseted islands should long ago have been regarded as part of France for fishing purposes. Their boats land 90 per cent of their catch in French ports, competing directly with French boats. Their rocks and shoals are now a maritime lawyer's delight. The agreement was pure angels-on-the-head-of-a-pin. Named French boats were allocated named patches of sea off individual island sandbanks. I am surprised officials omitted to name the individual lobster to be caught and the days on which they should present themselves in the relevant pots.

The zones have proved predictably

The Tories' desire to regulate the fish and coal industries makes nonsense of their free-market medicine for everyone else

unpoliceable, even if the French had had the slightest desire to help police them, which they do not. Supervision was left to British naval patrols forbidden to use force. The French soon called the bluff. But they came to Guernsey on Monday not just to defy but to negotiate. "When we arrived," said Christian le Blond, "we were presented with technocrats, men in suits and ties who work in offices. But then we are asked to meet the fishermen." They met in a quayside shed, a deal that had taken four years to negotiate was briskly supplanted by a temporary one by which the French fished a disputed patch and Guernsey regained access to French markets.

If Channel Islands crab and lobster stocks decline, that is tough on the fishermen. They can talk to each other again — and not go crying to Whitehall for help. But this ad hoc negotiation sent a shudder down the official spine across Europe. The meeting broke the closed shop. It was an outrage against the clerisy. Instead of the familiar sight of fishermen renouncing a minister-to-minister deal, yesterday saw the delicious sight of ministers desperately rejecting a fisherman-to-fisherman deal. Mr Gummer's junior, David Curry, said it was not up to private fishermen to decide what was in their own interest.

Fish terrify politicians almost as much as coal. They revert to type: like doctors prescribing aspirin they prescribe regulation and subsidy. The harvest of the seas is the most natural of free markets. Let one and all fish them, since they are going to anyway. If fish stocks decline, they will decline and no longer be fished. The present collapse in prices is due to Russian boats turning capitalist and exporting fish. We cannot stop them and I am not sure I want to. We must get used to former communist states becoming aggressive traders.

The EC fish policy is seeking to emulate its farm policy in lunatic over-regulation. Each portion of the sea

around Europe is divided into zones. Inside each zone, each European country (I thought there were no individual "countries" in the single market?) has a quota of each size of each species of fish. British ministers have to go through the charade of periodically renegotiating these quotas. Few obey them, certainly not the French or outsiders such as Russians and Poles.

In addition, Brussels has decided that fish stocks must be "conserved" — in whose interest they do not say — by forcing trawlers to tie up in dock for six months a year and by offering compensation to owners who scrap their boats or use them for day trips round the bay. This exotic form of "set-aside" will cost £25 million in Britain alone, taking just 8 per cent of trawler capacity out of commission. Imagine the Treasury paying McDonalds to close hamburger factories to save the rainforests from cattle ranching.

We are told that North Sea cod and haddock stocks have fallen by 80 per cent in 20 years. Eight per cent is nothing like enough to save these stocks — experts say it should be 40 per cent. But why pay anything? This may be a sad day for haddock. But haddock is not the blue whale. If it goes the way of the wild boar, so be it. Neither I nor all the officials in Brussels and Whitehall are going to stop it. Fish and chips will become farmed salmon and chips.

Mr Curry complained to *Le Monde* that "when the French fishermen become violent, the French government gives them subsidies". He then went down to the House of Commons to vote for precisely such a concession to Britain's miners. While Mr Curry was struggling to uphold the Angevin empire, his colleague Mr Heseltine was throwing money down coal pits. Mr Heseltine had offered a temporary reprieve to 12 pits, plus £100 million of industrial injury grants and a straight £10 million energy prices bribe to Ulster Unionist MPs. This was enough to

swing the vote on Monday night. The six rebels and five abstainers of last October were reduced to four rebels and three abstainers. That is the way the money goes.

The rebels on both occasions were protesting on grounds of conscience against Mr Heseltine being so maddeningly right. Backbenchers will always support ministers when they are wrong. But present them with a decision that is tough but correct and if sticks in their gullet. And not just the Tory one: I heard Tony Benn saying that British coal should not have to compete with imports mined by slave labourers in South Africa and seven-year-olds in Colombia. What happens to the latter in Mr Benn's world? They starve, to keep Mr Benn's constituents in work. I have rarely heard the case against free trade so cynically put.

Still, Mr Heseltine stuck to the essence of his position of last October. He has not done a U-turn. The reprieving of 12 pits still depends on the power industry being prepared to buy coal in the marketplace, not in a minister's office. The industry has no intention of doing anything it did not mean to do last October. That is as it should be. What Mr Heseltine means by promising subsidy to private mines "only if they can find genuinely new markets" I do not know. Surely subsidies distort markets? But then micro-economics has never been a strong suit at the Treasury. If another penny is conceded to coal, there should be a march on Downing Street by all the bankrupted workers to whom Mr Major has given nothing but higher taxes.

The right policy for coal is to privatise its extraction and leave market forces to determine the right balance of energy sources. Government's job is to intervene constantly to ensure that everyone competes on even terms, not to compensate every lobbyist who whinges at the slightest unfairness. Command economies — such as the British public sector — never become competitive by prolonging the agony of change. Mr Heseltine is rightly promoting an open market for energy.

I am not convinced the same goes for Mr Gummer's fish. But perhaps at least the shoals of Normandy will soon be out of his hands. For this has been a great week for devoted decision. Coal and fish have submitted to subsidiarity. The day of pithead privatisation and quayside diplomacy is at hand.

Simon Jenkins

Best publicity awards

The Oscars rarely reward great art, says Ben Macintyre

Truman Capote once remarked acidly that the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences annual awards, or Oscars, are "all politics and sentiment and nothing to do with talent". But then Truman Capote was himself an exponent of what might be called "reverse Grouchesm": snooty about clubs until the moment they invited him to become a member.

Many in the American film-making world have a similarly ambivalent — even hypocritical — attitude towards the Oscars. Most are only too ready to criticise the film awards ceremony as vulgar, embarrassing, bogus and often wilfully ineffective at recognising the deserving; but few indeed are prepared to turn down an Oscar.

In a fit of moral indignation, Dustin Hoffman once declared "The Academy Awards are obscene, dirty and no better than a beauty contest"; but Mr Hoffman has won two Oscars in the past, accepting them without demur on both occasions, and on Monday night he seemed only too happy to participate in the obscene beauty pageant once again as an award presenter. It is a robust point of principle, it seems, that can survive in Hollywood.

The Oscars are the highest awards in the film industry, but rarely, almost accidentally, do they reward genuinely great performances and productions.

With some notable exceptions, the Oscars traditionally follow two rules: outstanding performances and films are usually overlooked; bad or mediocre performances, however, are regularly rewarded to compensate for the fact that the actors or actresses in question were overlooked in previous years. There is roughly a three-year time lag between performance and award in most cases.

Al Pacino's award this year for best actor is a case in point. Mr Pacino is one of Hollywood's has been repeatedly nominated for Oscars without success. On Monday he finally made it to the Oscar podium, but with a performance well below his best. He virtually admitted as much when he remarked, by way of thanks, "You broke my streak", but added that he had not wanted the play the role in *Scenes of a Woman*.

Mr Pacino finally won the right award for the wrong movie, but others have not been so fortunate. Cary Grant, to cite just one glaring example, never won an award for best actor.

As actors are fond of pointing out (until they receive their own Oscars), the awards have precious little to do with skill, at least not in acting. Clint Eastwood inadvertently put his trigger finger on it when he accepted the award for best picture on Monday: before he thanked anyone else, Mr Eastwood offered his gratitude to "the marketing department" — an acknowledgment, perhaps, that it was they who ultimately made a success of *The Unforgiven*.

The Academy Awards were initially and specifically designed to improve "the growing status of the film industry", 65 years later, this translates into box-office receipts and the industry's all-important self-image. Is it any wonder that Dustin at Al dutifully trot up to accept their Oscars with good grace?

In his recent and vast tome about the Oscars, the British writer Anthony Holden describes the awards as "the most potent instrument of publicity and self-promotion any industry ever designed for itself". Oscars are the accolades that drive the machine of movie publicity, reflecting finally the needs of the industry, rather than the art. So it is hardly surprising that the big blockbusters, the feel-good movies, the banal and the trite, have tended to win Oscars in the past: this is what Hollywood has invested in, and this is what the American film-going public has been trained to enjoy.

At least that is the way the 4,612 voting members of the Academy have traditionally decided. Most of the Academy's members are highly conservative, white, retired insiders in the film world. In the words of one director, "Everyone in it is as old as God and hasn't worked in 20 years". Hitherto the prevailing tradition has been to reward substantial investment and long service far above talent or imagination. The Oscar ceremony is "a ritual," as one critic recently put it, "the essential purpose of which is to affirm the uniformity of mass popular culture".

But the Oscars could and should be vehicles for building an audience for quality films, with an educational role as well as an industrial one. If Oscars rewarded talent, then the huge resources of the industry might be spent on better rather than more marketable films, and Al Pacino might not have had to wait so long to make his acceptance speech.

This year, it must be said, the Academy came closer to changing its ways than ever before, with a flurry of nominations for good, low-budget, non-Hollywood productions, including the two British-made films *Howards End* and *The Crying Game*. This was not fully translated into Oscars — *Howards End* won three awards but *The Crying Game* netted only one — but it does suggest that Hollywood may be changing.

If so, and if the awards finally become the index of talent they always should have been, then it may be necessary to introduce a new category to compensate past film giants, such as Alfred Hitchcock and Charlie Chaplin.

Daley delay

THEY appear to be slower off the blocks in the Manchester Olympic camp than in one or two other world cities bidding to hold the Olympics. Daley Thompson, the double Olympic champion, has still not been asked to endorse Manchester's £2.5 billion bid.

In itself, this might not be unusual. But the decathlon hero has been asked by four other cities — not one of them British — for his help in winning gold.

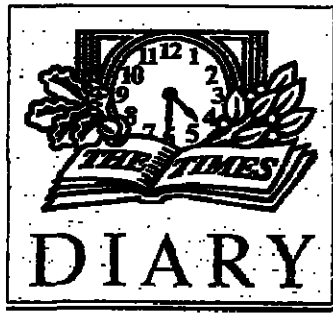
Thompson says he has been approached by Berlin and Sydney, both of which are in competition with Manchester for the Olympics in 2000. He has also been asked by both Johannesburg and Cape Town in their bids to host the 2004 games, and is off next month to South Africa "to see what can be done".

Manchester, meanwhile, has enlisted a number of Britain's stars from the Barcelona Olympics, including Linford Christie, Sally Gunnell and Chris Boardman. Bobby Charlton and Clive Lloyd, two of Lancashire's sporting finest, are also on the committee of

tional Olympic Committee. "I hope Daley isn't offended, but we don't want to overload any athletes. Even so, it's important that every British person is behind this bid and of course we would welcome him on board."

Andrew Leatham, a spokesman for Manchester, says Daley will be called upon in due course: "We've got it all carefully planned. But it's like any race — we don't want to be peaking too early." The call had better come quite soon: decisions will be made in September.

● The long tradition of sport bridging political divide continues. Sebastian Coe, Tory MP for Falmouth and Camborne, and Douglas Henderson, the Labour member for Newcastle upon Tyne North, have become a regular sight jogging round London's Battersea Park as they prepare for next month's London marathon. With their training nearing its peak, the sporting pair are currently averaging a gruelling 20 miles a session. Henderson, a veteran of many marathons, is



known for his speed over rather shorter distances, is simply looking forward to finishing.

Divided loyalties

WITH scarcely a second look in its diary, publisher Hodder & Stoughton is throwing a launch party tonight in London's West End for Elizabeth Longford's Royal Throne: *The Future of the Monarchy*. Impeccable timing — the party coincides exactly with the presentation of the Catherine Pakenham Award, a yearly prize given to young women journalists and starred in memory of Longford's daughter, who was working on the *Telegraph* magazine when she died, aged 23, in a car crash.

able to go to both. The parties aren't that far away from each other. I'm going to stay for a bit at mine and then dash to the other."

King's ransom

DOUBLE celebrations, one premature, at King's College, Cambridge over the success of *Howards End* in Monday's Oscars. The college stands to make a tidy sum as the major beneficiary of E.M. Forster's estate which, with a chapel costing £1,000 a day to run, will doubleless come in handy.

With college finances foremost in his mind, Ian Barber, the bursar, was glued to the television on Monday night to see Emma Thompson (sadly from Newn-

ham, not King's) and *Howards End* take three Oscars.

King's made very little from *Passage to India* and *Maurice*, two other Forster books which were made into films. "They didn't make enough profit for us to get our share out of the pot — the costs are so huge with all these things," he said. "But with *Howards End* they appear to have hit the nail on the head. For the first time, I think we will make some money." Barber concedes that a modest party is planned — presumably in the library.

● Paul Foot, who yesterday resigned from the Daily Mirror after 13 years, has no intention of giving up work. The 57-year-old scourge of the establishment and champion of the underdog has been commissioned by a leading publisher to write what he describes as "a big, fat history of the universal franchise". A vote of confidence, one might say.

Coded practices

THE *INDEPENDENT* and its sister paper, *The Independent on Sunday*, like to think they occupy the moral high ground. So why,

Committee, the committee of newspaper editors responsible for amending and updating the Press Code?

Could Jack's resignation have anything to do with a story in the *ioS* earlier this month which suggested that the position of Lord McGregor, the Labour peer who chairs the Press Complaints Commission, had become politically untenable and that he would be replaced at the end of the year?

"It's got everything to do with it," thunders an unhappy Jack. "I had no alternative but to resign from my small position on a small committee."

The source of Jack's unhappiness is Harry Roche, chairman of *The Guardian* and, more significantly, chairman of the Press Standards Board of Finance, the industry body that funds the PCC, employs McGregor and funds the Code Committee.

Following the original *ioS* story, Roche wrote to the paper clearly stating that the finance board was not "looking for a successor" and that it did not regard McGregor as "politically untenable". The letter duly appeared, albeit in what Jack admits was a "somewhat truncated" form. A lively private corres-



FISH PIE

Regulations without enforcement are a charter for corruption

The deal struck between the French and Guernsey fishermen this week has no legal force and merely postpones resolution of the dispute over fishing rights around the Channel Islands. But there is understandable disillusion among these two maritime tribes with the central authorities that are meant to police them and uphold their respective rights. Rarely have the inadequacies of the mechanisms that enforce European Community rules and regulations been so clear.

Threatened by the 37 French trawlers which had sailed into St Peter Port, the British fishermen were failed by the Royal Navy and by David Curry, the fisheries minister, who warned against "hysterical over-reaction" with the vigour of one who is determined to under-react. Direct negotiation with their French antagonists must have seemed the only route to compromise.

John Major's statement condemning the French action yesterday was too little too late. The fiasco has merely strengthened the conviction of Britain's fishermen that they have been abandoned by the government.

Last week, trawlers from Devon and Cornwall blockaded Plymouth in protest at the import of cheap fish and the Sea Fish (Conservation) Act, which will compel them to stay in port for up to 200 days a year. Although Britain's offshore fishing grounds account for 80 per cent of western Europe's fish stock, her fishermen are entitled to only 30 per cent of the fish by weight under the European common fisheries policy. The government is determined to reduce British catches by almost a third to bring the nation into line with EC quotas. The fury of British fishermen will grow as their share dwindles.

But the Channel Islands conflict reflects a failure of authority more than a failure of economic forethought. Detailed quotas and rules defining fishing zones, licensing rights and net sizes are meaningless without

enforcement. The EC has resisted the suggestion of a Community maritime guard, and instead funds a tiny squad of fewer than 20 fishing inspectors. Member states are therefore expected to police the waters they use themselves.

Enforcing fishermen's rights on the shared territory of the open sea is much harder than imposing domestic quotas on vineyards, dairies and arable fields. For naval defenders of fishermen, there is a fine balance to be struck between culpable inaction and rash use of force that might result in death. But Paris seems no more concerned that French fishermen abducted three naval officers from HMS Brocksby and seized HMS Blazer on Sunday than it was when French farmers attacked British shipments of meat to France last year.

The British government, in contrast, is happy to enforce those EC regulations and quotas which limit the rights of its farmers and fishermen, but far less zealous in its defence of their entitlements under community law. This is a curiously selective and self-abasing way of abiding by international agreements. A truly *communautaire* nation would protect its rights with as much resolve as it discharged its responsibilities.

The enforcement of EC rules needs urgent attention in Brussels and elsewhere. Peter Sutherland, the former competition commissioner, complained in a report last year that the pieties of the single market still lacked significant teeth and systems of consumer redress. Likewise, one can be sure that the new "set-aside" quotas to reduce the Community's cereal surplus will be enforced unevenly across the fields of Europe.

Bureaucratic regulations without enforcement are a charter for corruption. The fishing dispute has shown what happens when legitimate authority advocates its lawkeeping responsibility. That is the wrong kind of subsidiarity.

IMPORTED FANATICISM

The Home Office has acted properly against Rescue America

Arguments about the rights and wrongs of abortion must not be allowed to cloud the separate question of whether Don Treshman — director of the extremist anti-abortion crusade, Rescue America — should be deported from Britain. Tolerance and respect for the feelings of those with whom one disagrees are fundamental ideals of public discourse in this country. Equally important is the belief that, however heated a political dispute may become, it must be conducted within the parameters of the law. Mr Treshman's fanatical activists represent a genuine danger to legal practitioners of abortion and their patients.

Mr Treshman has now been arrested and a Home Office deportation order has been issued against him — actions which, in themselves, do not suggest tolerance. But on the basis of Rescue America's own stated intentions, there were grounds for the Commons motion signed by 30 MPs, stating that his organisation was a "threat to public order". Whatever the strength of emotional or religious feeling about legalised abortion in Britain, the argument has been conducted largely without descent into the kind of street violence that has become commonplace in the United States.

Those who protest at the apparent illiberalism of the decision to order Mr Treshman out of the country should be clear that it was not taken simply because he expressed a controversial view. Articulating an opinion, however offensive, would not be legitimate grounds for exclusion. What caused the Home Office to act were the

explicit plans by Rescue America to bring to Britain the violent techniques it has been known to use in the United States, the arson, assault and bombing which it sees as part of its morally justified campaign against abortion clinics. Medical staff who carry out legal abortions have been harassed, threatened and pursued by fanatical followers of the anti-abortion movement. Recently one doctor at a Florida clinic was shot dead during a Rescue America demonstration.

Anyone who saw Mr Treshman unapologetically defending his organisation's practices on television this week, will have been struck by his apparent lack of interest in fair-minded discussion or contrition for the damage that his supporters have done. He described the death of the Florida doctor merely as "unfortunate" and pointed out, chillingly, that had he not been killed, more "babies would have died at his hands". The democratic mandate in favour of legal abortion that was implied by the election of President Clinton was dismissed by Mr Treshman as a transient obstacle in the path of his campaign. He showed markedly little interest in or knowledge of British democratic traditions. The fact that Parliament, on a free vote, had given British women a statutory right to abortion under conditions that were widely debated and are constantly reviewed, did not appear to influence his intentions. British subjects may sometimes take liberties with the institutions of their home country, but the Home Office is surely within its rights to prevent the importing of such illegal incitements.

YOU WILL, OSCAR

Glamour, bathos and hypocrisy are part of tinsel prize day

The Oscar ceremonies on Monday night lived up to the old adage about Hollywood that beneath all that tinsel there is still more tinsel. It was the more splendid for it. Kitsch, hilarious bathos, glutinous sentimentality and glamour all have their part to play. Most embarrassing acceptance speech has long been an enjoyable, if unofficial, contest. Highlights included Richard Gere, adopting the mantle of Marlon Brando who once used the Oscars as a platform to criticise the treatment of Red Indians (or Native Americans, as they now call them), making a speech about the cruel Chinese repression of Tibet. Miss Emma Thompson characteristically dedicated her award to "the heroism and courage of women". Mr Clint Eastwood, whose films laud the heroism and courage of men, uncharacteristically dedicated his to his mother. Britain's film contingent notably lifted five awards.

There was even a happy ending on old fashioned Hollywood lines. The script, out of Frank Capra, was *Miss Thompson Comes to Town*, starring a woman who comes from a poor but honest motion picture industry to the bright lights of Los Angeles, and shows the wicked moguls how films can be successful box office without spattering the screen with gore. But even the moguls enjoyed a happy ending. Two of their most bankable stars who have appeared in plenty of gory films, Clint Eastwood and Al Pacino, picked up statuettes.

One glittering run at Hollywood does not a reborn British film industry make. All the same we hope that the critics on this side of the Atlantic do not in turn indulge in their favourite pastime of taking potshots at

British winners. If Miss Thompson's stand on the Gulf War was a touch naive, then she joins a splendid British cast of politically eccentric thespians which includes Vanessa Redgrave and Glenda Jackson. Miss Thompson has many successful friends and a successful husband, but surely that is cause for congratulation not carping. What matters is how Miss Thompson acts. She acted well in *Howards End*, and deservedly won an award.

Did the Oscars reflect the fashionable groundswell of critical opinion against the gratuitous film violence? Critics could point to the peaceable content of *Howards End* and other award winners. Even Mr Eastwood's brutal film, *Unforgiven*, which won the Best Picture and Best Director awards, was described by its maker and fans as an anti-Western Western for its dissection of the false cult of the gunslinger. However, one of Hollywood's best if most underrated actors, Gene Hackman, who won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor for appearing in Eastwood's film, saw it differently.

Mr Hackman, who played a brutal sheriff determined to enforce law and order at any price, told reporters that when he first read the script, "I thought it was too violent. There were a couple of killings that were too explicit." Hollywood has recently produced a long line of films that condemn something nasty in explicit, Technicolor detail. But hypocrisy always has star billing at the Oscars. "Obscene, dirty and no better than a beauty contest," said the politically correct actor, Dustin Hoffman, of the ceremony. He went on to pick up two Oscars.

Nuclear weapons 'can be controlled'

From Professor Joseph Rotblat

Sir, The withdrawal of North Korea from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) may jeopardise its extension beyond 1995. As you pointed out in your article, March 27, the NPT has already been weakened by the reputed acquisition of nuclear weapons by Israel, India and Pakistan; it was further shaken by the disclosure (report, March 25) that South Africa was for a time a de facto nuclear weapon state.

To prevent the collapse of the non-proliferation regime, stringent measures, long called for, such as strengthening the safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency, will now have to be urgently implemented. However, these will not remove the inherent flaw in the NPT: its discriminatory nature, which legitimises the possession of nuclear weapons by five states, while disallowing it to all other signatories to the treaty.

At the heart of nuclear proliferation is the perception that nuclear weapons confer security and status. If we accept the claim by a few states that nuclear weapons are essential for their security, how can we deny the same claim by other states? Surely, the three aforementioned unofficial members of the nuclear club have more reason to feel insecure than, say, the UK or the USA. The same argument may be used by other states.

In the long run there can be only two solutions: either allow the possession of nuclear weapons by any state that desires it, or deny it to all. The first is certain to lead to a very dangerous world. The second is also not without risks, but much less so, and ways can be found to minimise them.

The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) has recently been signed by 140 states. Chemical weapons, like nuclear, cannot be disintegrated: indeed it is much easier to build up clandestinely a stock of chemical weapons than nuclear ones. Yet a comprehensive, non-discriminatory treaty banning the possession of chemical weapons has been endorsed. A recent Pugwash study has shown that a similar treaty on nuclear weapons would be feasible.

The UN Conference on Disarmament, which has successfully negotiated the CWC, should now put the nuclear issue on its agenda. A decision to seek a long-term solution would also facilitate the dealing with the immediate problem.

Yours faithfully,
JOSEPH ROTBLAT
(President, Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs,
Flat A,
63a Great Russell Street, WC1.
March 29.

Energy-saving bulbs

From Mr Andrew Osmond

Sir, In the current controversy about charging VAT on domestic electricity it is worth noting that the extra 8 per cent next year can be avoided by switching to the new energy-saving bulbs.

Taking a typical electricity bill as being £360 a year, it means an extra payment of £28.80 will have to be made in the tax year April 1994-5. However, four energy-saving bulbs on the porch, the stairs and in the living room, which are on for more than five hours a day, can offset that extra cost.

For those who cannot afford the higher initial cost of such bulbs, the Energy Saving Trust or the electricity companies could perhaps provide them either free or subsidised.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW OSMOND (President),
Lighting Industry Federation,
Swan House,
207 Balham High Road, SW17.

From Mr D. F. Sweeting

Sir, I have just ordered some energy-saving electric light bulbs for my house and was amazed to hear from a supplier that no manufacturer makes them in this country. It appears that they are made in Holland or Germany. Needless to say, I am told that the demand for them, after the Budget, with VAT to be put onto energy in 1994, is increasing daily.

Is it too much to hope that by next year it will be possible to buy British-made long-life bulbs? As it is at the moment the Chancellor has hit on another way to increase our balance of payment debt.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD SWEETING,
Hill Farm, Little Rissington,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.
March 23.

Historic find

From Mr R. V. Taylor

Sir, Reading your interesting news item from Germany, "Briton tracks down historic battle site" (March 26), I was intrigued to learn of the existence of "coins dated AD 9"; what a pity that they were evidently unknown to Pontius Pilate.

Yours sincerely,
R. V. TAYLOR,
14 Waxes Close,
Abingdon, Oxfordshire.
March 26.

Business letters, page 25

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Naval tactics in French fishing clash

From Captain H. H. Bracken, RN (ret)

Sir, The recent flurry in the Anglo-French fishing war (reports, March 29, 30) emphasises the need for cool heads and clear minds on the part of the naval personnel involved.

Fishing skippers, British and French, are a tough breed, used to taking risks; keeping the crew at it in bad weather when there is next to nothing in the fish-hold requires a strong personality. A few unrewarding voyages can either mean going back to being a deckhand or going broke if you are the owner.

Most skippers poach if they think they can get away with it, and ignore any rules and regulations which they are not convinced are to their advantage. Such men are not easily intimidated.

Talk of boarding parties armed with firearms is nonsense and the skippers know it. No naval officer or man is going to fire on an unarmed fisherman. Boarding parties should be armed only with pick handles.

The recipe for a successful boarding party, getting someone into the engine-room and having the means to disable the vessel by fouling up the propeller. Withdrawal of any members of a boarding party is a fundamental error.

Any idea that this is less of a problem in the open seas is ill-founded. If the skipper decides to make a run for it before being

boarded there is not much that can be done. Warning shots across the bows will not intimidate most skippers, even if they have not hijacked part of a boarding party.

Opening fire on a fishing vessel and causing casualties would have such adverse repercussions as to be unthinkable. The only practical solution is a cast-iron agreement between governments that those who infringe agreements governing fisheries will be returned to stand trial in the country on whose seas the offences were committed.

The question is whether the French government has either the means or the will to enforce such an agreement: if it has neither then fisheries disputes will continue to rumble on.

This is no time to be talking about civilising the Fishery Protection Squadron.

Yours faithfully,
H. H. BRACKEN
(Commander, Fishery Protection Squadron, 1960-2),
The Old House,
Groombridge, East Sussex.
March 30.

From Miss V. A. Chown

Sir, French fishermen boarding a British gunboat? Palmerston must be turning in his grave.

Yours etc,
VALERIE A. CHOWN,
1 Liverpool Road,
Formby, Lancashire.

Leasehold reform

From Lord Coleraine and Viscount Montgomery of Alamein

Sir, Lord Williams of Elvel and his Labour and Liberal Democrat colleagues would not expect us, as Conservative supporters of the government, to share all their views (letter, March 23) on leasehold reform legislation. We do however share much of their concern.

The prime minister firmly hoisted his personal flag to the cause of leasehold reform for flat lessees in the last days of the general election last year. Flat lessees were to enjoy the rights so lavishly handed out to house lessees by the Labour government in 1967, but on fairer terms for freeholders.

We had every reason to expect the enactment of a conservative measure, readjusting property rights fairly to meet today's social needs, and with the hope that an accommodation would be reached which would hold for a generation.

Hong Kong decisions

From Mr H. P. Hall

Sir, Mr P. R. Millett (letter, March 26) suggests that democratic reforms should have been introduced in Hong Kong 20 to 30 years ago. It might be of interest to know why this was not done.

I took over the Hong Kong desk in the Colonial Office in 1949 when the communists were taking over in China itself.

When Hong Kong was liberated from the Japanese in August 1945, the population had fallen to around 600,000 only. Chinese from the mainland then started arriving at the rate of 100,000 a month and by 1949 the population was well over two million.

Two problems faced us. If an elected legislature was introduced, who would vote? The vast majority were not British subjects.

Secondly, if Hong Kong developed along the usual colonial lines it would

eventually become self-governing and the United Nations would press for its independence.

None of us in the Colonial Office thought that China would accept an "Independent Little China" on its doorstep if Hong Kong ever reached that stage. China would take over by force and neither the British government nor the United Nations would have been able to prevent this.

The safest course was to continue the direct administration of Hong Kong by the governor and British officials with a nominated legislature.

These were the facts of life which we had to take into account and in my view led to the correct decision at the time. It resulted in Hong Kong having had many years of successful life.

Yours faithfully,
H. P. HALL,
(Principal, Colonial Office, 1947-55),
Robina, The Chase,
Ringwood, Hampshire.
March 26.

Dulwich pictures

From the Director of the National Gallery of Art, Washington DC

Sir, I write to express my great concern about the financial problems besetting the Dulwich Picture Gallery and to encourage those concerned to try to find a long-term solution to ensure the ongoing viability of this wonderful institution.

The Dulwich Picture Gallery is widely perceived in America to be one of those remarkable gems that always rewards the visitor with an unforgettable museum experience. In few other galleries does the setting work so wonderfully to reinforce the enjoyment of viewing works of art.

The collection itself also has an outstanding reputation. Its Rembrandts, Poussins, Van Dycks and

Gainsboroughs, for example, have been featured in numerous international loan exhibitions.

The exhibition of paintings from Dulwich which toured the United States in 1985 was enthusiastically received everywhere it was shown.

While I understand the complex issues that will have to be resolved in arriving at a solution for this current crisis, I would like to underscore our hope that this exceptional institution will continue to exist, so that future generations will be able to enjoy the remarkable experiences to be found at Dulwich.

Sincerely yours,
EARL A. POWELL III,
Director,
National Gallery of Art,
Washington, DC 20565.
March 25.

Children in the sun

From Ms Prisca Middlemiss

Sir, Aileen Ballantyne (article, Body and Mind, March 23) should translate her warnings about the dangers of excessive exposure to the sun into practical advice for the parents of those children who are about to add another summer's worth to their potentially pre-cancerous overload of sunshine.

If children should wear sunscreen and wide-brimmed hats and stay in the shade at midday, parents need to know when to start applying sunscreen — now, when the ozone layer is at its thinnest, or in July when the sun's rays are more direct?

How often should it be applied to a child playing in the back garden or on

a British picnic? Should nursery and schoolchildren be kept indoors on sunny lunchtimes — and if not, should parents slip a tube of factor 25 and a lipscreen into the lunchbox?

And what about those wide-brimmed hats? Should uniformed schools be bringing back the straw hat and the boater? And what about the schools without uniforms?

A recent trawl of the major children's clothes shops uncovered a welcome plethora of children's fashion hats, but not a single wide-brimmed hat.

What is a parent to do?

Yours faithfully,
PRISCA MIDDLEMISS,
50 Heathfield Road,
South Acton, W3.
March 23.

Protection from hazardous land

From Mr George McDonic

Sir, The government's decision to abandon its plans for a contaminated-land register (report, March 25) has passed up the opportunity to get to grips with the problem.

The purpose of a contaminated-land register, as town planners see it, is threefold: to identify land that is a health hazard; to ensure that planning permission is not granted for residential or other development that would be unsafe on such land; and to secure the removal of the hazard and the reclamation of the land for productive use.

As far as the third objective goes, the register would act as a form of "environmental audit" which would attract resources to secure reclamation and economic after-use.

The public expects to be protected from the possibility of development taking place on sites where the health of future residents could be endangered. As things are, there is no such protection. We sincerely hope the government will address this problem in its "new wide-ranging" review.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE McDONIC
(Chair, Minerals Panel),
Royal Town Planning Institute,
26 Portland Place, W1.
March 26.

Hedge maintenance

From Mr John Hunter

Sir, Hedges, laid and trimmed (letters, March 8, 15, 17, 22, 24), are the norm for much of Britain, but here in Essex we have a tradition of coppice. This suits a landscape with little need for stock enclosure. Coppicing may be done at any interval from ten to 40 years and involves a mechanical saw, tractor-mounted or hand-held. Some facing back with a flail may be done after harvest.

On our extensive boulder clays the hedges are species-rich, the majority pre-Stuart and some pre-Conquest. A coppice regime benefits this diversity, and the higher and freer growth looks well against large arable fields.

Under our joint scheme with the Countryside Commission we support with grants an average of ten kilometres of hedge-planting a year on farmland — medieval hedges, historically incorrect maybe, but good for the animal kingdom and the human eye.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN HUNTER
(Assistant County Planner),
Essex County Council,
County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex.
March 24.

From Mrs Margaret Warbis

Sir, Flails in themselves do not cause havoc; it is the way they are used. Instead of simply trimming the new growth, those who operate them seem to take a pride in "doing a good job" and eating more deeply into the hedge every time.

This is what causes the heartbreaking sight of mangled branches and splintered trunks which can never regenerate.

Proper traditional laying is a counsel of perfection unlikely to be followed, but if farmers could be persuaded to use mechanical trimmers with moderation much vandalism might be avoided.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET WARBIS,
23 Ashley Road, Uffculme,
Cullompton, Devon.
March 24.

Long film career

From Mr Kenneth Barrow

Sir, Your obituary of Helen Hayes (March 19) stated that her film career began in 1917. In fact she made her film debut at the age of nine, in the 1910 two-reeler *Jean and the Calico Doll*, before either Lillian Gish or Chaplin had made their debuts.

That film was followed by several further two-reelers, the titles of which are unrecorded, for Vitaphone in New York. In 1917 she appeared in a feature film, *The Weavers of Life*.

Murder with Mirrors, her last feature film, was released in 1985. Helen Hayes's 75-year career as a performer in films was longer than any other.

Yours sincerely,
KENNETH BARROW,
126 Elgin Avenue,
Maida Vale, W9.
March 20.

Rush to judgment

From Mr Roy Waters

Sir, In his review of the film *Crush* (March 18) Geoff Brown wrote "On a hurried first viewing at Cannes last year ...". This has been puzzling me ever since.

I know how to hurry through a film on video, but though I have often wanted to I have never succeeded in doing so in the cinema. How did he manage it?

Yours faithfully,
ROY WATERS,
5 Rusham Road, SW12.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Profundus" and Vespers of the Dead, M. me. Reynard sang Gabriel Faure's "Je Piesu", and Samuel Rousseau's "Libera nos" was sung by M. Narçon, of the Opéra. Then followed Gabriel Faure's "In Paradisum" and Gluck's "Chant Funèbre" from *Olympie*, and the service concluded with Beethoven's Seventh Symphony.

The ceremony ended, the coffin was placed on the funeral car and the great actress's last journey began. On each side of the hearse walked the orphan girls bearing their palms. Following the hearse came the great wreathe-bearers, on which wreaths and other floral offerings were piled . . .

As the funeral procession passed slowly down the boulevard Malesherbes, across the Place de la Madeleine, and along the rue Royale and the rue de Rivoli, the great crowd saluted with bowed heads in silent reverence. At the top of the rue St-Martin the procession halted for a moment in front of the Théâtre Sarah Bernhardt, and then resumed its way. At the cemetery there was an immense concourse of people. They numbered probably a hundred thousand. The coffin was reverently placed in the mausoleum of black marble over the tomb of the actress (simple inscription "Bernhardt") and in which Mme. Sarah Bernhardt's mother is buried . . .

MEDIA 28

The man tipped for the hot seat at ITN

ARTS 29-31

Vikram Seth: key figure in a new literary tradition

SPORT 36-40

Olympics beckon once more for Torvill and Dean

WHO CARES IN THE COMMUNITY? Homes, page 35

THE TIMES 2

WEDNESDAY MARCH 31 1993

BUSINESS TODAY

RECOVERING



Taylor Woodrow, the contractor, says the worst is over after falling £66 million into the red last year
Page 22, *Tempus* 25

STRIKING

Friday's planned bus and rail strikes do not necessarily herald a spring of discontent.
Philip Basset writes
Page 25

TALKING



Pearson has confirmed it is in talks to buy Thames Television in a deal worth up to £120 million
Page 22

EASING

More than 15,000 UK businesses went bust in the first quarter, but analysts say the failure rate is easing
Page 23

THE POUND

US \$ 1.482 (+0.008)
German mark 2.431 (+0.004)
Exchange Index 79.3 (same)
Bank of England official rate (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100 2861.0 (+14.5)
Dow Jones 3450.24 (+4.8)
Nikkei Ave. 18983.16 (+65.22)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 6%
3-month Interbank 5 1/2%-5 3/4%
US Federal Funds 3 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bill 2.92-2.91%
Long Bond 6.50%

CURRENCIES

New York: London £\$ 1.4825
\$£ 1.4825
\$DM 1.6175
\$Sfr 1.4945
\$Fr 1.5491
\$Yen 118.52
\$ECU 1.0740
London Foreign market close

GOLD

London Fixing (\$): AM \$38.20 PM \$39.40
Close \$38.25-38.75
New York: \$38.25-38.75

RETAIL PRICES

RPI 138.8 February (1.8%)
* Denotes midday trading price



Driving force: John Simpson, left, chief executive, and David Donnelly, finance director, of Mayflower Corporation, with the Aston Martin DB7

Investing millions to bring back MG

By Ross TIERMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ROVER is on course to launch a mass-market MG sports car in two years, triggering a £34.6 million cash call by Mayflower Corporation, which is in talks about supplying bodies for the mid-engine roadster.

Motor Panels (Covebury), a Mayflower offshoot, expects to invest up to £24.2 million in design, development and tooling to produce more than 10,000 bodies a year. Motor Panels is already building the body for the new Aston Martin DB7. Rover confirmed that discussions had been held with Mayflower about "a possible return to production [of the MG] on a significant scale". But a spokesman insisted: "We have not made a final decision to produce."

Prototypes for the new MG have been built. Rover, which will complete the renewal of its existing models next Wednesday with the launch of the Rover 600, is preparing the ground for the resurgence of the MG marque. A limited-edition MG RV8 was launched in October, but production of the £26,500 car, based on components from the defunct MGB, is only 15 a week.

In the year to December 31, Mayflower made £1.7 million pre-tax (£1.06 million) after writing off £1.3 million owed by Leyland DAF, for which Motor Panels makes truck cabs. The final dividend is 0.85p, making 1.25p (nil).

Japan hits back at US trade criticism

By COLIN NARBROUGH
AND TOM WALKER

JAPAN reacted angrily to criticism by Mickey Kantor, the US trade representative, that the Japanese are not interested in a speedy settlement of outstanding trade disputes.

In a speech to the American Chamber of Commerce in Brussels yesterday, Mr Kantor attacked Japan for behaving as though the Gatt agreement was not important.

Mr Kantor caused offence by saying: "Japan continues to behave as if it had little stake in the outcome." Tokyo refuses to open up its rice market to foreign imports, a policy which prevents it from playing a constructive role in the multilateral talks.

Mr Kantor's swipe at Japan, with which America has run a huge and persistent trade deficit, drew an angry response from Tomohiko Kobayashi, Japan's ambassador to the EC, who was among Mr Kantor's audience.

He said that Tokyo's efforts on the trade front had not been fully appreciated. He also cast doubt on Mr Kantor's competence as head of America's trade policy. "He is very new to international trade matters and he may not grasp realities yet."

Mr Kantor, whose appointment drew similar criticism in

President Clinton's trade representative Mickey Kantor infuriated the Japanese by complaining that Tokyo was not taking the Gatt trade negotiations seriously

Washington, accused some countries, especially Japan, of hiding behind the transatlantic dispute over farm subsidies, which had stalled the Gatt round for three years. Japan has long been sensitive about opening its market to imported rice, as home-grown rice is a big issue in domestic politics.

Mr Kantor said America, whose attempts to increase balance in its trade with Japan have largely failed, wants the

markets of other nations to be "comparably open to US goods and services". This would have to include labour and environmental standards, he said, indicating that Washington wants to meet similar requirements to those it is seeking in the North American Free Trade Agreement with Mexico and Canada.

"We hope to avoid getting bogged down in long drawn-out theological debates about free trade versus protectionism," Mr Kantor said, as to do so was a "senseless exercise and ultimately futile". He said the conventional wisdom was that trade expansion could not be negotiated in economic hard times. But he said it was time to fly in the face of such wisdom and finish the trade round. Mr Kantor's hard-hitting words appeared to signal that America is ready to take on all-comers in its pursuit of "fair" trade for American companies.

His mention, for the first time, that America wanted to include environmental standards in the current Gatt round provoked alarm at the trade body's headquarters in

Geneva, where it is felt that any attempt to widen the present talks would be totally counterproductive.

Before his attack on Japan, Mr Kantor revealed that the Clinton administration was seeking major "improvements" in the draft final accord for the long-stalled world trade agreement that trade diplomats fear could unravel the whole deal.

After two days of talks with leading European commissioners, he spelled out that there would be no Gatt agreement unless the market access was "significantly increased". But he said a further lowering of tariffs was top of Washington's list for essential changes. Other specific areas on which American wanted change were proposed: rules safeguarding intellectual property rights, trade in services and environmental considerations, he said.

Mr Kantor's remarks followed America's decision on Monday to delay for three weeks the imposition of trade sanctions against the Community over Brussels' public procurement rules. Mr Kantor made it clear, however, that proposals on procurement and market access put forward by Sir Leon Brittan, the foreign trade commissioner, while constructive, were "not acceptable" in their present form.



Kantor causing offence

Farewell, then, to the new industrial policy

Michael Heseltine's coal white paper duly proved a great short-term political success, even though its high-profile measures to ease the rundown of the industry seem to be dissolving as fast as a backbench rebellion. The effect on industry will be more enduring.

Last month, I argued that the coal review was the crucial test for Mr Heseltine's vaunted new industrial policy, because he had most of the important cards in his own hands. Under the new dispensation, the government would start intervening actively again, but in a new, more co-operative, way. The President of the Board of Trade was to bend every sinew of muscle power, influence and persuasion to help British business — but not with taxpayers' money and not to impose theoretical Whitehall ideas.

Mr Heseltine failed the test. Under the coal plan, taxpayers stand to pay vast subsidies for little long-term industrial benefit. As a social

policy that makes sense: short-term subsidies look a relatively cheap way of keeping thousands of miners off the dole queue at the top of the unemployment cycle. As an industrial policy, the coal review marks a return to the theory and washing of hands against which industry so recently rallied. The reformed coal industry is left as the victim of the disparate bits of industrial engineering welded into the final form of electricity privatisation.

Any blame, however, lies as much with industry as in Whitehall. Certainly, ministers would have needed to be much more ingenious, as well as rolling up their sleeves and horse-trading round the clock and round the European Community. Even if they had done so, they would have needed active co-operation, notably from the electricity generators and distributors, and from the gas industry. This was not forthcoming.

The continental system works on well-tried methods of mutual back-



scratching. British managers do not like to co-operate with the public sector or with their domestic rivals — except as a cartel. Companies looked only to their own immediate advantage, insisting that if ministers wanted them to do something, taxpayers had better put up the money.

Admittedly, managers of recently privatised businesses tend to embrace what they conceive as the private sector ethic to excess, like teenagers who greet the moment when they can legally buy a drink as an invitation to get drunk. Yet they only caricature slightly a business culture born of decades of suspicion of malign Whitehall interference.

Those who demanded that Britain adopt the methods of the French government in backing its own firms, did not envisage any parallel obligation to the "national interest" that this implied. Too few even have much regard for their own suppliers or their local economy.

The new industrial policy was not thought through and was therefore probably destined to fail. Perhaps it is as well the illusion faded so fast. Behind the flag-waving rhetoric, the British business establishment mainly wanted only two things: that Whitehall should stop interfering with mergers and that ministers would magically win better deals within the Community. In a quiet way, Mr Heseltine does seem to be moving away from the sort of nonsense that forced ICI to close British fertilizer plants rather than sell them to a competitor. In this case, Whitehall is helping companies' international

ambitions by intervening less. The DAF affair is less encouraging. The president's Dutch counterpart did not even bother to invite him to participate in saving the group, after hearing Mr Heseltine's reaction to the collapse on television. Leyland-DAF was, therefore, left to be recycled by free market scavenging. This seems likely to keep the main plants in business, albeit without any organisation likely to have an independent long-term future.

A return to hands-off policies should bring more positive benefits. The coal white paper repeatedly stressed, as a reason for not redressing the distortions of the power market, that "a stable regulatory environment is essential to investor confidence" and that government did not wish to "undermine confidence in the stability of the regulatory framework established at the time of privatisation". That should let British Gas and BT off the hook, but don't bet on it.

Eurotunnel dismisses builder's delay claim

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

THE Channel tunnel faces further delays and cannot now open until well into 1994, as much as a year after the original target date, one of the ten builders working on the project has claimed.

Eurotunnel, the tunnel operator now locked in a legal battle with the builders, has dismissed remarks by Jean-Claude Jammes, deputy head of Fougere, the French building group, as mere contractual posturing designed to pile on the pressure during the long-running negotiations over cost over-runs. However, the uncertainty, and the threat of legal action on a related contract to supply the rolling stock, drove Eurotunnel's share price 19p lower to 473p. Eurotunnel and the builders had already fallen out on Monday when a ruling by the tribunal of the International Chamber of Commerce, which had been asked to arbitrate on the dispute, was the subject of wildly differing interpretations by both parties.

M Jammes told French journalists yesterday that the construction work would be completed in August this year, but delays affecting delivery of rolling stock and the continuing dispute about costs would delay the opening until "sometime in 1994".

Among the delays to the arrival of the trains are a further legal dispute, between TML, the builders' consortium, and Bombardier, the Canadian-owned manufacturer of the rolling stock. Some of the shuttles that will run through the tunnel have already been completed at the plant at Bruges, Belgium, but Bombardier stopped work there at the start of this month and the trains are not being delivered to the client.

Yesterday, Eurotunnel was forced to deny reports that

André Bénard, its French joint chairman, had said his company would sue Bombardier. A spokeswoman said: "Eurotunnel doesn't have a contract with Bombardier. If TML wishes to sue Bombardier, we will support them. We obviously want the shuttles to be delivered and we see no reason why they shouldn't be, to allow us to open at the end of the year as planned."

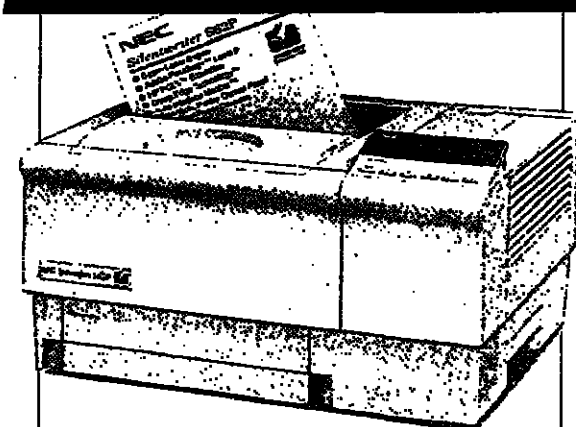
TML said talks on resolving the matter were continuing and it hoped to avoid legal action. A spokesman said reports of a strike at a second Bombardier factory providing rolling stock for the tunnel, at Valenciennes, France, were "possibly unrelated" to the dispute. The delivery problems were not delaying the testing programme of rolling stock, he added.

Eurotunnel's spokeswoman said: "It's TML's job to provide us with a fully operational system. Throughout our dispute with TML, work hasn't been delayed, and we don't see any reason why it should be." She said any delay would land TML with a claim for damages from the operator and Eurotunnel with a loss of revenue. "It's in both of our interests to get the project finished as soon as possible and to get it up and running. It can be done, but it needs co-operation. We don't see any reason why it can't open at the end of the year."

Eurotunnel shifted its target for the opening of the tunnel in October, setting a new date of December 15. The operator had previously delayed the date from June 15 to September 15 of this year. The opening will be phased, with passenger services not running at full capacity until the middle of next year.

Woodrow stamps, page 23

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By JON ASHWORTH

Pearson, which on Monday announced pre-tax profits of £150.8

Analysts believe Thorn EMI's stake in Thames is worth £110 million to £120 million. Guy Lamming, at James Capel, said UK television series are undervalued, and Pearson is keen to capitalise on a rising market. He said: "Due to the

Shares in Pearsons rose 6p to 4.10p yesterday, having already risen sharply on the back of Monday's results. The figures were better than the City expected and left the shares

Pearson began talking to Thorn EMI in November over the possibility of taking a 20 per cent stake in Channel 5, the new national television channel. However, Pearson would be limited to a 5 per cent stake under the 1990 Broadcasting Act. Due to its newspaper interests, Pearson is limited to a 20 per cent stake in

Profits from Pearson's media and entertainment interests rose 24 per cent last year. BSkyB was profitable at the trading level. Job losses, mostly in oil services and newspapers, will save about £30 million a year.

The timetable for the reform of pension law was extended by three months, when Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, agreed to give the pension law review committee until September 30 to submit its report.

BY MARTIN WALLER
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

BY SARAH BAGNALL, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

According to Airmig, Pool Re, the fund into which participating insurers pay all terrorism-related insurance premiums, has been "hastily conceived", and initial indications are that not enough money is forthcoming. As policies come up for renewal, companies wanting terrorism cover have had to pay extra

Brighter prospects: Tony Palmer, left, and Colin Parsons believe Taylor Woodrow has turned the corner

Tony Palmer, the chief exec-

The slower pace of property disposals in the present environment clipped operating profits in the property division from £44.0 million to £17.2

The group gave warning that new accounting rules would serve to reduce the profits that could be taken from disposals henceforth. Housing profits were little

Tempos, page 25

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

Group results, after charging exceptional items, show a pre-tax loss of Ir£17 million, compared with a Ir£2.7 million pre-tax loss. Again, there is no dividend.

Group sales totalled Ir£273.6 million (Ir£292.1 million). Donald Brennan, the chairman, said the trading climate was likely to remain difficult in 1993. However, the board is confident that

The restructuring was in line with the policy embarked on two years ago to return the group to acceptable profits, he said.

Waterford Crystal's operating profit of Ir£500,000 compares with a previous loss of Ir£1.32 million, on crystal sales 9 per cent higher at Ir£76.3 million. In America, Waterford Crystal is also

The restructuring charge included Ir£8.8 million at the manufacturing plants in Waterford and Ir£7.7 million in the Wedgwood Group. Shareholders funds' at the year end were Ir£101.2 million (Ir£138.6 million) and the group was 54 per cent geared.

ALLIED London Properties increased rental income by 10 per cent to £9.5 million and boosted pre-tax profits to £2.9 million in the six months to December 31. The company is continuing to reduce its housebuilding activities and says there are no signs yet that property values have stabilised. Earnings per share rose from 1.7p to 2p and the interim dividend is unchanged at 1.075n.

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BY GEORGE SIVELY
CITY EDITOR

However, shareholders' funds remain almost unchanged at £72.3 million, thanks to between £12 and £13 million of share issues during the year. These enabled £10 million of the losses to come out of a special reserve in the balance sheet, set up in 1991 to handle the goodwill that came with various Newman acquisitions.

The accumulated profit and loss account shows a fall from £17 million to £16.2 million. Gearing has risen only slightly from 27 to 29.6 per cent.

PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application by Petition under the Public Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act 1926 has been made to the Secretary of State in March 1993 by the British Railways Board for a Provisional Order ("the Order") under the above name or short title purposes of which the following is a concise summary:

- Construction of Woods No. 1 and 2 - Highway (0.265
miles) and I-270 route in length by the Hamilton,
Clark, Stanchely Flagon, being a subdivision of a dis-
continued project, between Pioneer and Lincoln
Highways in Cumberland County.
- Special provisions to coordinate with the construction and
maintenance of Woods No. 1 and 2; establishment of a
station at Laidlaw with preference access here and
to Cedarburg Road.
To provide for the widening of the right-of-way path
between Faldens Street and High Avenue Street and
along within the limits of deviation of Woods No. 1
and 2.
- Purchase of land and new rights in, under or over land for
the use of the proposed Woods; the use of land for the
construction and maintenance of the proposed road;
or acquisition of rights of passage over land to be purchased
for the use and special provisions as to entry and com-
passion.
- General provisions applicable to or in connection of

[illegible]

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Slowdown in rate of company failures confirms recovery

By Ross Tienan
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE number of business failures in Britain increased only slightly during the first quarter, providing further confirmation that the recession is loosening its grip.

Although 15,433 businesses have collapsed so far this year, the rate of failure was up only 4 per cent on the same months of 1992, according to Dun & Bradstreet, the business information company. Failures among limited companies fell by 5.5 per cent to 5,297. Philip Mellor, marketing manager at Dun & Bradstreet, described the trends as "heartening".

An improvement in the health of larger companies was confirmed by evidence that they were settling invoices more promptly, he said. "It appears that larger companies have been making the necessary adjustments and painful cost-cutting measures to prepare for recovery, while the pain of bankruptcy will continue at a high rate for the smaller firms for some while." Release of the business failure figures coincided with a prediction from Oxford Economic Forecasting that the manufacturing sector is likely to lead a shaky climb out of recession. But the service sector will remain on its uppers and the recovery will be too patchy and too weak to reduce Britain's three million dollar queue this year, EEF said.

The forecast was accompa-

Manufacturing will lead a shaky climb out of the recession, but with the service sector still suffering unemployment is unlikely to be reduced this year

nied by a warning that fragile consumer confidence and the gathering recession in continental Europe could upset the predictions. The economists also insisted that there would be no return to the over-expansion of the late 1980s and early 1990s, distribution and financial services that occurred during the 1980s.

The regional breakdown of business failure figures highlights two regions that have shown some signs of recovery in regional economic surveys. Wales, which has an increasingly robust manufacturing sector heavily geared to exports, recorded a 17 per cent fall in business failures, year-on-year. In the East Midlands, where construction of a new Toyota plant has pumped hundreds of millions of pounds into the local economy, and some long-established engineering groups are weathering the recession well, the number of failures fell 5 per cent. The eastern region recorded a 9 per cent fall.

The worst-hit area was Scotland, the last region to enter recession, where failures rose 26 per cent. The South West, which has experienced an especially deep recession, experienced a 9 per cent rise in the level of failures. Business

in London and the South East continues to suffer badly, as a result of the recession. Overall, 36 per cent of all business failures occurred in the region. For limited company liquidations, the proportion reached 52 per cent.

In America, the Conference Board said its consumer confidence index fell to 62.6 in March from 68.5 in February, the third consecutive month for a decline. The survey is based on a sample of 5,000 households nationwide. Economists had forecast the index to be 66.8 in March.

The board said people were "moderately less positive" in their assessment of prevailing conditions, and markedly more pessimistic in their expectations for the immediate months ahead. Buying plans were also down sharply.

"While the official economic readings are still indecisive, the rather abrupt change in consumer confidence suggests that the much awaited economic recovery... may have lost some of its thrust," Fabian Linden, executive director of the Conference Board's Research Center, said. The current recovery appears to be "unconvincing," he said, adding that people's prime concern continues to be jobs.



Window of opportunity: Le Creuset, the kitchenware manufacturer, increased pre-tax profits to £3.6 million (£3.3 million) in the year to December 31, despite the "franc fort", which Paul van Zuydam, chairman, says is making the company's task more difficult in a period of economic decline. The dividend is Fr0.43 (Fr0.42), converted at the year-end rate to 5.1p (4.3p).

Alexon presents a deep shade of red

By Martin Waller, Deputy City Editor

ALEXON Group, the fashion retailer, has bitten the bullet and revealed the extent of the damage from a difficult year's trading compounded by soaring levels of stock.

Pre-tax losses of £986,000 in the 53 weeks to end-January contrasted with a profit of £11.3 million last time. The final dividend is axed, leaving a total of 3p against 10.6p.

During the year, debts soared £15.3 million to £23 million. Stock levels at the year-end of £44.7 million were £3.3 million higher.

The group, which gave a warning of impending bad figures for 1992-3 to the City earlier this year, has reached outline agreement with its banks for medium-term debt facilities to meet its planned needs. Alexon shares sagged

David Brown gears up for £90m listing

By Colin Campbell

DAVID Brown Group, the specialist gears, transmissions and pumps company founded in 1860, is to be listed on April 15 after a share placing and public offer at 170p each, valuing the group at £90.3 million.

The group, which developed the famous tractors, ships and Aston Martin Lagonda — divested in the 1970s — had a turnover in the year ended January 29 of £80.9 million (£80.5 million), and pre-tax profits of £9.31 million (£8.29 million).

The placing and offer will raise a total £52 million, of which £30 million is earmarked for some of the original backers of the £46 million management buy-in that brought Christopher Brown and Christopher Cook, the joint chief executives, into the group in January 1990. The 170p issue price is pitched at 12.1 times historic earnings. The national gross dividend yield at the offer price, based on new Advance Corporation Tax levels, is 4.4 per cent. The minimum subscription is 200 shares.

Mr Brown said net proceeds from the issue would be £20.1 million, which would give David Brown net cash balances of £9 million. The group was anxious to make complementary acquisitions in Britain and the Continent. It would be interested in companies with borrowing facilities and net cash holdings, and a turnover of between £10 million and £15 million. David Brown Group would have the financial ability to consider deals of up to £15 million, Mr Brown added.

Bundesbank fuels rate cut hopes

From Colin Nareborough in Hanover

FRESH hopes that German interest rates could fall this week were raised yesterday by Helmut Fiesse, a Bundesbank board member, who said the time for small cuts was not yet over.

But he appeared to rule out any big cut in key rates, arguing that too bold a move would encourage the flight of capital and affect the dollar-mark relationship.

Frankfurt economists think the Bundesbank council meeting tomorrow is unlikely to decide any significant rate change. A signal to the markets of easier rates to come could be given through the

securities repurchase or "repo" rate. At last week's tender, funds were allotted at a lowest rate of 8.25 per cent.

Othmar Issing, another Bundesbank board member, said inflation remained a concern, suggesting the central bank is still cautious about lowering its monetary guard too fast. Annual inflation in western Germany rose slightly to 4.3 per cent this month.

The lira dropped to record lows against the mark and share prices tumbled on the Milan bourse amid growing concern about the fate of Giuliano Amato's government. The Bank of Italy

intervened after the lira reached the 1,000-to-the-mark level, having closed at 987 on Monday.

Helmut Schlesinger, the Bundesbank president, sought to calm the markets, saying he saw no reason for renewed tension in the European monetary system (EMS) after the French elections. French policies aimed at price stability should allow French interest rates to fall, he said.

Herr Schlesinger said parties within the EMS were now realistic and stable after the latest realignments. But he said allowing inflation to rise in Germany would jeopardise

European monetary union. He ruled out a mini Franco-German monetary alliance as a way to a European union.

Warning strikes are set to break out tomorrow in the east German metal and engineering industries, as IG Metall, the powerful metalworkers' union, seeks to hold employers to a deal to bring eastern workers' pay level with their western counterparts.

The deal foresaw a big increase from April 1 to take east Germany's 400,000 metalworkers' pay from 70 to 82 per cent of the level paid in the west. In April next year, wages would be fully equalised.

PUBLIC NOTICES



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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given that the 144th Annual General Meeting of the members of AMP Society will be held in the Ballroom of the Regent Hotel, 199 George Street, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, at 10.00am on Wednesday 28 April 1993.

To receive and consider:

- the report of the Directors, and
- the balance sheet, revenue account, statement of cash flows and related notes, and the report of the Auditor in respect of AMP Society and the AMP Society Group for the year ended 31 December, 1992.

Proxies

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Proxy forms must be received at the address below at least 48 hours before the meeting.

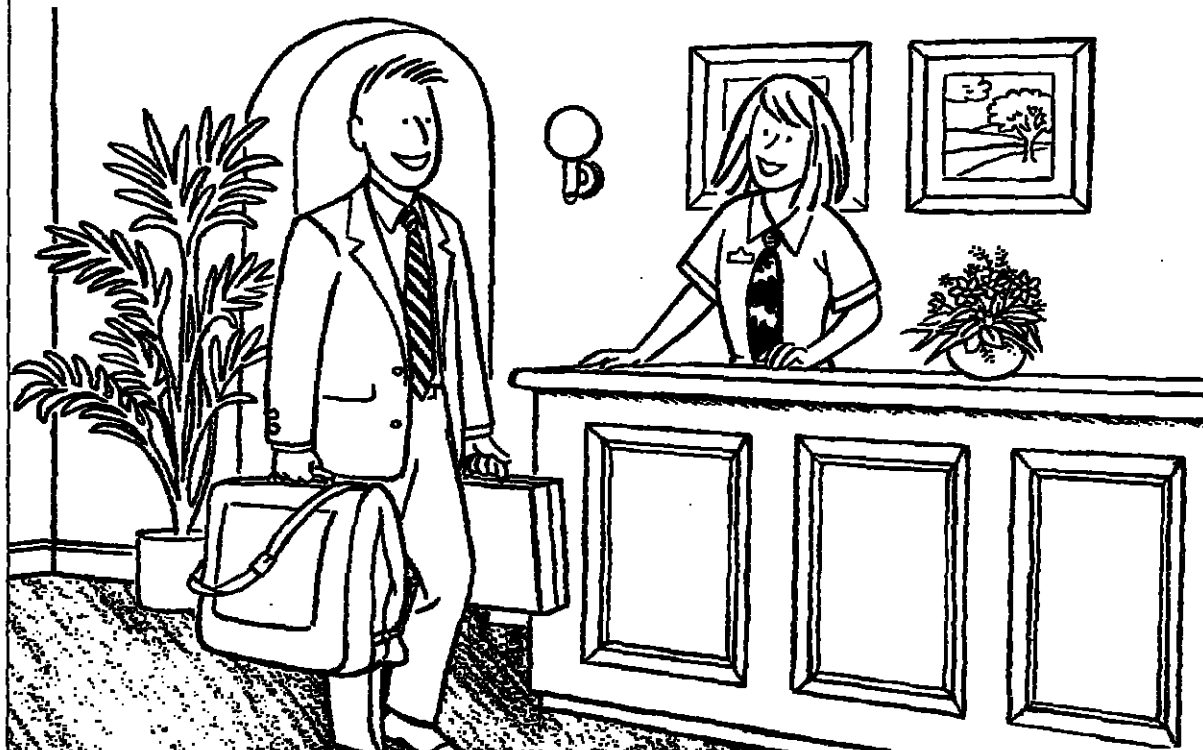
Proxy forms will be supplied to any member who applies either personally at any of the AMP's major customer service centres, or in writing to the Secretary at the address below.

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Strike clouds gather again on the employers' horizon

Philip Bassett believes Friday's planned strike in support of miners, and other looming action, may signal a change of industrial mood

Trotskyist trade union activists gave a significantly specific twist to their traditional chant on the march in London this week to support the miners: "Whaddier we want? General strike! Whennerr we want? FRIDAY!"

Friday's planned strikes by rail and mine workers, and London bus crews, are a very far cry from a general strike even with other employees warning of action — but they clearly constitute the biggest industrial disruption seen in Britain for years.

But do they, together with a rash of other disputes such as Timex and Ford, mark the return of the strike to British industry? Is this the start of a spring of discontent, or merely a seasonal flurry as the industrial sap rises?

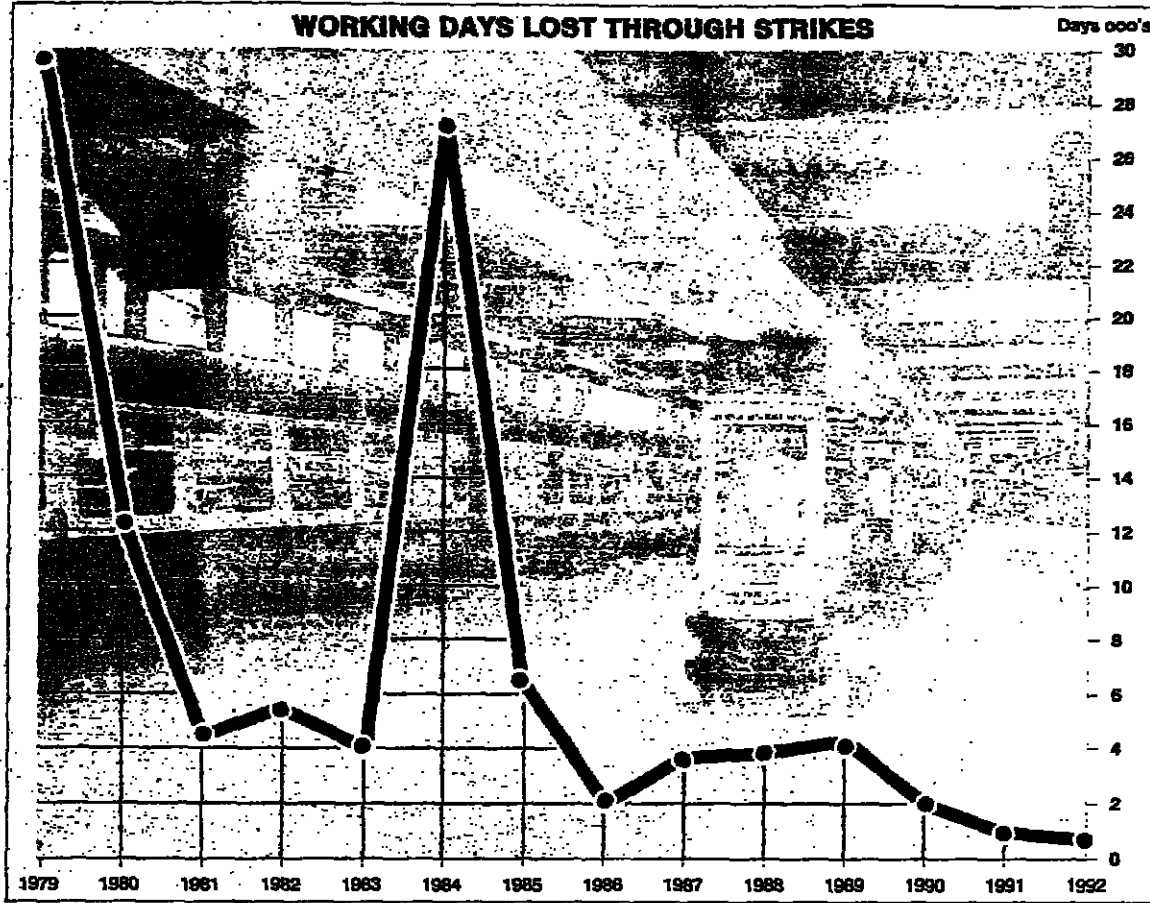
Experienced observers of British employee relations remain sceptical. John Hougham, who has just moved from the industrial cauldron of Ford to take over as chairman of Acas, the government's conciliation service, is clear: "I don't see anything in the current position which would lead me to believe that we are in anything like a spring of discontent."

David Metcalf, professor of industrial relations at the London School of Economics, agrees: "I can see that people are getting more angry and more frustrated," he says. "But I can't see that we are going back to set-piece battles." So does Howard Davies, director-general of the CBI, while he acknowledges the recent emergence of industrial disputes, he says: "I do not think this is the return of a high-tension industrial relations environment."

Mr Davies insists that each of the current disputes has "individual explanations", but to many the advent of 24-hour rail, miners' and London bus strikes on the same day — the very day the European TUC has named as a Europe-wide day of protest on unemployment — looks less like serendipity and more like structured coincidence: a view given support when a union leader like Arthur Scargill, the miners' president, calls explicitly for an extension of Friday's planned stoppages into a 24-hour general strike.

The coal, rail and bus strikes, the strikes by Ford white-collar workers, with the promise of more to come, the bitter TUC dispute in Dundee which has already seen the worst "nickel-and-dime" violence since the mid-1980s, the planned Rolls-Royce strike in Bristol, the threatened national strike by firefighters, and the strike ballots being mounted regionally by coalmining deputies, and nationally by the previously anti-strike Union of Democratic Mineworkers are all clearly a raising of the temperature of British employment relations.

They all have individual causes, with the preservation of jobs dominant. But union leaders believe that what lies behind them is a single, unifying strand: in the face of job losses, low pay deals,



companies closing, employers riding roughshod over their workforces and a government firmly opposed to unions, and working people, employees are starting to say — enough is enough. However, even if all these strikes take place, they will provide little more than an upward ripple to the strongly downward trend of strikes in Britain over recent years. Each month, after giving the latest, usually gloomy, unemployment figures, employment department officials are almost abashed about reading out the latest strike statistics, which are all records lowest since the 1926 general strike, lowest this century, lowest since records began.

Last year, Britain lost just 523,000 working days through strikes. This compares with an average annual loss under the Conservative government of 7.5 million — pushed up heavily by the fallout from the winter of discontent in 1979 and the miners' strike in 1984-5. The annual figures have been falling in the 1990s: the 1992 total was only 1.7 per cent of the 1979 peak.

The principal reasons behind the fall in strikes — a stringent framework of labour law, high unemployment, lower union membership and insecure incomes in the recession — are still with us, even in the current rash of strikes, lending force to the judgments of seasoned commentators that the present strikes are an aberration rather than a new norm — a blip, not a trend.

In the face of a government — and, often, employers — determined during the 1980s to beat strikes as part of a policy of taming the unions, employers

became sceptical about the value of striking. Economists are poor at measuring the outcomes of industrial relations, but research at the LSE into the pay boost from strikes supports that scepticism, suggesting that strikes, especially long ones, may well be bad investments for employees and unions.

Faced with employer resistance and employee reluctance, strikes have declined as a mechanism for exerting market advantage. But Jimmy Knapp, general secretary of the RMT transport union, whose British Rail members are set to stop the trains on Friday, says: "I would not say it's a spring of discontent on the scale of the 1970s. But there is definitely a stirring which has been absent for some years."

And Rodney Bickerstaffe, of the NUPE public employees' union, says: "We are going to find throughout the country over the next few months tensions building up."

Bob Fryer, principal of Northern College, in Barnsley, and a trade union expert, acknowledges the new mood and says it has popular support — but believes unions should be ill-equipped to capitalise on it. "They are not greatly adept at handling public opinion which is largely going in their favour."

Union leaders such as Norman Willis at the TUC hoped to build on the wave of public outrage that burst out last autumn when British Coal first announced its pit closures, but they recognise privately now — especially after the government got its coal white paper through the Commons on Monday — the difficulties of marshalling public opinion. Rail, mine and bus workers look likely to support fairly

solidly the strikes called for Friday, though what they do after that — how they maintain the momentum — will be a problem.

But the best industrial relations second-guessers agree that the most serious threat to Britain's low strike record is posed not by the miners, or the railwaymen, or the bus crews — but by the firefighters.

A fortnight ago, more than 1,000 firefighters blocked the street outside the Home Office in London as leaders of the Fire Brigades Union told Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, that they will ballot on a national strike — the first since 1977, and only the first service's second ever — if the government insisted on applying the 1.5 per cent limit in a way which permanently undermines the index-linked pay formula used to end the 1977 strike.

FBU leaders seem to be accurately gauging the mood of their members. Each spring, all the 14 FBU regions hold weekend educational schools; at these and at the union's regular branch meetings a slogan is emerging with a chilling practicality for employees facing a long strike in a recession: "Start Saving Now."

If that does encapsulate the feeling among the firefighters — and they will mount a national demonstration to show it on May 26 — the prospect is there of a real set-piece industrial relations battle that would severely test all sides.

While stranded rail commuters on Friday may disagree, the idea of a spring of discontent is probably premature. But British industrial relations are in a greater ferment than they have been for some years — and the possible consequences of that plunge again into the unknown will make the government and employers nervous for some time to come.

'I would not say it's a spring of discontent but there is a stirring that has been absent for some years'

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TEMPUS

Contract killing

TAYLOR Woodrow has made the bold promise that it will never again take on loss-making contracts. That will indeed be a revolution, judging from past events.

Perhaps, TaylorWood was unlucky finding itself at the wrong end of so many dull contracts. More likely, the group was too ready to bid low for seemingly blue chip contracts such as Eurotunnel, EuroDisney and the Storebaelt bridge in Denmark.

Investors will need faith in the present management's determination not to repeat the experience. Tony Palmer, chief executive, says he requires a margin of at least 1 per cent plus interest benefits from pre-payments — not totally reassuring. Even that will be hard to find given the current dearth of construction and civil engineering work, but the group is confident its £839 million order book will

not shrink. If it does, TaylorWood will find it difficult to meet its goal of generating cash this year. Although the dividend cut will improve cash flow by £35 million, the group faces a number of cash demands including the closure of Octavius Atkinson, the structural steel business, and land purchases for the recovering housebuilding division. Even if the group does generate cash, it is unlikely to make much of a dent in net borrowings of £229 million, so there is little prospect of an upturn in the token dividend this year.

The most obvious attraction of TaylorWood's shares is their one-third discount to net assets. On other measures, such as the yield of 1.5 per cent and a prospective earnings rating of more than 50, the shares already fully discount what is likely to be a sluggish recovery.

Tibbitt & Britten

TIBBITT & Britten is one of the few 'fashion' glamour stocks from which the shine has never worn. Since the group floated six years ago, it has recorded compound annual earnings growth of 21 per cent and dividend growth of 24 per cent from such an apparently mundane business as transport and distribution.

The group has used its success to diversify. This year, less than a quarter of turnover will come from the company's traditional clothing and textiles distribution. The largest division is now Silcock, the Europe-wide car distributor Tibbitt bought last year, which should produce almost a third of group sales in a full year.

The acquisition of Silcock has exposed Tibbitt to the deepening recession in the

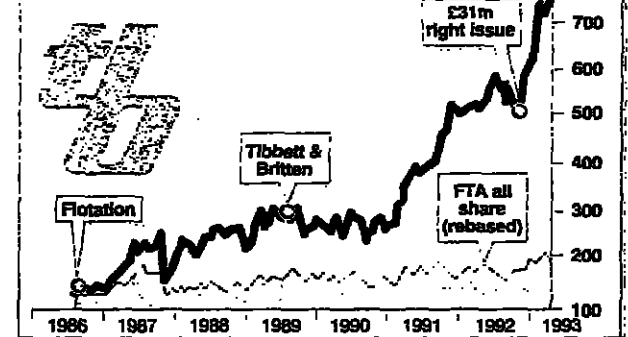
continental car market, although any fall in profits will reduce the additional payment due next year.

Silcock also gives Tibbitt a base to expand its other distribution businesses into continental Europe. With negligible debts, Tibbitt has plenty of scope for organic expansion or inflit acquisitions.

As the group becomes increasingly international, the strains on management will increase, although the ex-Unilever team is confident it will cope.

Unfortunately, Tibbitt's shares now trade at more than 20 times prospective earnings reflecting all of the prospects and none of the risks in the enlarged group.

TRANSPORT OF DELIGHT



Alexon

ALEXON's track record may come in subtle shades of grey, but its financials are bright red. The group misjudged the impact of the recession on its traditional customers, and it ordered stock they did not want. It compounded the problem by refusing to discount.

Alexon is beginning to address the problems, but it is by no means clear that it has found the solution. Stock levels, at £45 million, are still unacceptably high for a company with a turnover of less than £110 million. Alexon cannot say how much of this is old stock, which in the fashion business is about as useful as a mahogany frying pan, but it insists no further stock write-downs will be needed. The numbers do not inspire confidence.

Trading this season is better than last year, although the Dash business is still not in profit. Margins are also being squeezed owing to the higher cost of the garments Alexon sources abroad. Profits are unlikely to top £3 million this year at best and the shares should be avoided

until there are more tangible signs of recovery.

Waterford Wedgwood

DONALD Brennan, chairman of Waterford Wedgwood, may believe his group has turned the corner but it looks as though it is still running on empty. While Waterford Crystal made a profit in 1992, its first in six years, the rest of group's results are grim. Net debts rose to £54.6 million while property write-offs helped cut net assets by more than a quarter to £110 million. Gearing has risen to 54 per cent.

The group says that none of its borrowing covenants is in any danger, but it is hard to believe this is the same group that made a £120 million rights issue and received another £170 million cash injection in 1990 from Tony O'Reilly and Morgan Stanley, who both bought shares 20 per cent above the current price.

Last year's losses were, admittedly, caused by reorganisation provisions, and the group says trading is improv-

ing. It needs to. Trading profits in 1992 barely covered interest costs. Nor will the group receive any benefit from the devaluation of sterling and the punt until the end of the year because of its hedging policy.

Waterford Wedgwood has two superb brands that have retained their image despite the group's traumas. The cost cutting in the business has been severe and may just succeed. At £120p however, the shares are high risk.

Newman Tonks

NEWMAN Tonks does not need an upturn in the commercial property market to resume profits growth. It already has what it needs — devaluation. With nearly 40 per cent of sales derived overseas, it can add at least £1 million to the bottom line this year through currency translation. The group is now more price competitive. Management can choose whether to use the advantage to increase market share or expand margins. The first two months of the year have already seen a 20 per cent increase in profits. The omens look good.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Bartlett switches to the piste

"BATTLING" Jack Bartlett, one of the City's characters, will turn off his trading screen for the last time later today and then intends switching to the piste. He will be retiring after seven years at a trader at J.M. Finn, the broker, bringing to an end a career in the market that began in 1944 with Williamson, Fawcett and Stirling and included on the way firms such as Stirling & Co., Westmacott Wynn, de Zoete, Heddewick and Quilter Goodison. Jack (his real name is John) became Stock Exchange boxing champion in the 1950s, before turning his athletic prowess to skiing in order to preserve his good looks. Jack quickly became a gifted skier, establishing himself as an instructor, and continues to give lessons in this country and abroad. Since then, he has also taken up mountain climbing, fell walking and mountain bike riding. But now he intends to take things easy, by walking around Mont Blanc... for the second time. Clearly he will not have time to get bored.

For art lovers

THERE will be some strange sights confronting workers in the Square Mile during the summer. Those philistines among us, who believe that art is a picture of the Queen on a £10 note, are about to be educated by organisers at the Barbican, which is launching Art in the City, a sculpture trail linking 16 public sites in the Square Mile beginning and

ending, naturally enough, at the Barbican. They will include two fibre-glass figures in rowing boats on the Barbican lake, a yet to be announced steel sculpture outside the Bank of England, a kinetic light display using fibre optics at BT's headquarters, a giant head breaking through the paving stones at Paternoster Square and a life-size elephant in Broadgate. There will also be a flock of wire sheep grazing in Finsbury Circus, but please, no "spot the fund manager" jokes.

Oscar laid bare

THE razzmatazz of the Hollywood Oscar awards ceremony is over for another year and it may seem, in retrospect, to the average cinema goer an awful lot of fuss about nothing. The prestige of winning the 13½-inch high statuette may be immense to the recipient, but its real worth is minimal. It weighs 8½ pounds and consists of britannium (better to you and me) which is then covered by a thin gold plating.



Its actual worth is a mere \$500. A spokesman for the World Gold Council says: "A solid gold Oscar would be highly impractical. It would weigh 22 pounds and cost the academy \$110,000 each to make". During the past 64 years only 2,030 have been awarded. If they had all been made of pure gold, observes the council, their collective worth would be an estimated \$220 million and weigh more than 20 tonnes.

Ferry worrying

A SALUTARY tale is doing the rounds at National Westminster Bank, where David Morton, one of the press officers, is recovering from an unpleasant experience over the weekend. Despite forgetting his British passport on a day trip to Calais on Sunday, and lacking other identification, Morton was let into France. On his return, however, UK immigration gave him a rocket. From this week, they told him, their French counterparts will fine ferry companies up to £10,000 for each passenger travelling in these circumstances — a fee they will doubtless be keen to pass on. Worse, he was told British officials may impose a fine of up to £2,000, making those cheap shopping trips a shade less attractive. "I have travelled frequently to France using London underground travel cards, even a British library card," says Morton. "Customs told me my credit cards would do nicely — but only for paying the fine."

MICHAEL CLARK

BUSINESS LETTERS

Rates risk a poor trade-off

From Mr A. Cosker

Sir, Your report (March 30) that the Council of Mortgage Lenders sees a serious possibility that rates will have to rise if building societies are to continue attracting sufficient funds in the face of the competition from the various types of government borrowing, should come as no surprise to a Conservative Chancellor.

We heard so much from his predecessors during the 1980s about the dangers of a large public spending deficit "crowding out" private sector investment through the forcing-up of interest rates, that this likely consequence of his decision to do nothing significant about raising taxes this year should have been, for him at least, fairly easily predictable. If it does happen, there is

a very good chance that higher rates will stifle investment spending and, by causing the pound to rise, will dampen any surge in exports.

This would be a very poor trade-off for the extra consumer spending he will have produced by delaying the tax increases — particularly as our appalling trade figures suggest that a consumer-led recovery is the last thing our economy needs.

That he should have taken such an obvious risk does seem surprising. Yours faithfully, A. COSKER (Head of Economics), The Knights Templar School, Park Street, Baldock, Hertfordshire.

Budget plans are a sword of Damocles

From Mr Andrew Tugwell and Mr Robert Coats

Sir, We are writing to express our deep concern about the Budget plans for the tax treatment of oil companies involved in UKCS exploration and development. This industry is already at its lowest ebb since the grim days of 1986-7, well starts are down from a three-year average of 300 to 250 — and dropping. The north east of Scotland has been the jewel in the crown for the past two decades, these punitive proposals will make it into a backwater. Hundreds of local companies have seized the initiative and provided employment for thousands of people over the period. Now, all that will count for nothing and these people will become yet another unemployment

statistic. Multinational oil companies have a propensity for acting with great alacrity when faced with changing fiscal regimes. The North Sea is an expensive area to operate, there are significantly easier and cheaper areas of the world to exploit, once we lose the confidence of these companies they will go away and may not return.

The Chancellor is a Shetland man — has he completely lost contact with his roots? One week after his Budget, oil companies are already scything through exploration and appraisal plans. This is the sword of Damocles for small companies such as ourselves. Survival is already tenuous — the major oil companies have polarised the service sector such that only mega corporations have the opportunity to work for them, this means that the smaller, service companies have to rely on the not-so-

Taxing issue

From Mr Alan J. Ford

Sir, The Treasury statement referred to in Mr Wayman's letter (March 24) (and the Chancellor's Budget speech) were supplemented extensively by press releases from government departments. In one of these statements it was announced that an individual's dividend income will be the top slice of income. This means the Inland Revenue ensure higher rate taxpayers pay the maximum higher rate tax at 20 per cent (40 per cent minus 20 per cent credit) in 1993-4 whilst safeguarding non-taxpayers' opportunities to recover the greatest amount of tax at 25 per cent.

Yours faithfully, ALAN J. FORD, Hereward Phillips, Chartered Accountants, 2 Athenaeum Road, N20.

major oil producers. Pull the plug on them and it's death for us.

A great deal of technical innovation has emanated from smaller services companies, helping the effort to maximise oil recovery and lower costs. For all our sakes, let not this industry sector follow the demise of so many others, it almost seems that the government has a death wish on the British people. There is a saying in our industry that goes: "If it ain't broke — don't fix it" — very relevant we would say. Yours faithfully, A. G. TUGWELL (Directional Services Manager) and R. COATS (Region Manager, North Sea/Europe), Drillex Systems Limited, 17 Howe Moss Drive, Kirkhill Industrial Estate, Dyce, Aberdeen.

THE TIMES

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UNAUDITED RESULTS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1992

	£'000	%
TURNOVER	19,685	+15%
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION	8,218	+23%
FULLY DILUTED EARNINGS PER SHARE	7.02p	+23%
DIVIDEND	2.0p	+21%

For a copy of the 1993 Interim Report please contact:

The Secretary, Beaufort House
15 St. Botolph Street, London EC3A 7LT
Telephone 071 247 2345 Fax 071 247 4488

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY MARCH 31 1993

	US	Off	Yld		US	Off	Yld		
General	48.64	49.83	0.18	4.95	UK-EC General	41.44	44.03	+0.0	2.64
International	81.85	82.78	0.22	1.31	UK-EC	84.37	85.37	0.10	1.08
US Stocks	26.20	27.11	0.17	0.89	European A/C	40.47	43.00	+0.20	1.15
Global Mkt	14.78	15.88	0.28	2.11	Per S&P 500	30.17	33.53	+0.10	0.80
US Bonds	62.48	63.43	0.16	0.29	UK 10 Year Inc	85.84	87.30	+0.00	0.20
Global Bond	42.18	45.02	0.33	1.18	UK 5 Year Inc	43.76	45.00	+0.20	0.23
US Fixed Inc	25.25	26.88	...	0.20	US 10 Year Inc	26.35	28.00	...	1.05
					US 5 Year Inc	24.09	26.00	...	1.00
					UK Govt	40.61	43.15	...	1.00
					US Govt	26.70	29.00	...	1.00
					UK State Corp	36.60	39.70	...	0.30
PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUST									
51999 Strand NW, Wash, DC 20037									
470 8777, Philadelphia, PA 19104									
Per Mgmt Fee %	20.63	31.80	...	0.60	1.60				
US Stocks	10.38	60.38	...	0.03	5.34				
US Bonds	20.60	20.60	...	0.27	0.34				
Per Cap Inc	64.64	64.64	...	2.10	2.40				
UK Stocks	77.18	84.39	...	0.28	1.45				
Per Dividend	117.80	117.80	...	2.26	2.26				
Per Dividend	22.08	22.08	...	0.28	1.57				
Per Dividend	14.39	14.39	...	0.31	0.68				
Per Dividend	154.18	154.18	...	0.07	1.31				
Per Dividend	65.25	65.25	...	0.04	0.02				
Per Dividend	117.90	117.90	...	0.54	0.54				
Per Dividend	42.51	42.51	...	0.24	0.46				
Per Dividend	66.28	66.28	...	0.40	1.08				
Per Dividend	51.63	51.63	...	0.44	1.44				
Per Dividend	3.00	3.00	...	0.37	0.32				
Per Dividend	75.68	75.68	...	0.10	0.10				
Per Dividend	106.39	106.39	...	0.36	0.37				
ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT LTD									
25 Beakley Lane, London EC3N 8NR									
Investing 871 6347000									
US Stocks	12.29	12.29	...	0.23	0.71				
US Bonds	29.94	29.94	...	0.74	0.74				
UK Stocks	91.91	91.91	...	0.03	0.03				
US American Inc	47.25	47.25	...	0.85	0.57				
US Bonds	29.94	29.94	...	0.70	0.70				
US American Inc	26.76	27.17	...	0.89	1.06				
US Bonds	26.76	26.76	...	0.97	1.28				
SAVE & PROGRESS GROUP									
18422 Wilshire Blvd, Brentwood, CA 91506									
2786 Wilshire Blvd, Brentwood, CA 91506									
US Stocks	12.00	12.00	...	0.50	1.00				
US Bonds	72.75	72.75	...	0.00	0.00				
Capital Inc	16.90	16.90	...	0.50	1.00				
Commonwealth	16.90	16.90	...	0.50	1.00				
European Corp	16.90	16.90	...	0.50	1.00				
Financial Inc	16.90	16.90	...	0.50	1.00				
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Investment	16.90	16.90	...	0.50	1.00				
Investment	16.90	16.90	...	0.5					

FOREIGN EXCHANGE					
Exchange index compared with 1985 was same at 79.3 (day's range 79.3-79.5).					
SPOT RATES AND FORWARD RATES					
Mkt Rates for March 30		Close	1 month	3 month	
Australia	27.175-27.730	27.175	1-1/2c		
Brussels	49.75-50.21	49.75-49.85	12-20c		
Copenhagen	9.2740-9.3550	9.2740-9.2970	31-35c	12-11/2c	
Dubai	0.9960-1.0021	0.9960-1.0000	2-1/2c	3-1/2c	
Frankfurt	24.165-24.324	24.165-24.217	1-1/2c	1-1/2c	
Hong Kong	224.10-224.17	224.10-224.55	1-1/2c	1-1/2c	
Madrid	172.48-174.34	172.48-173.20	12-1/2c	50-60c	
Mexico	2387.55-2426.20	2387.00-2395.00	0.23	55-60c	
Montreal	1.8321-1.8719	1.8698-1.8710	12-14c	35-38c	
New York	1.4910-1.4950	1.4940-1.4950	0.37-0.36p	0.99-0.99p	
Osaka	10.2860-10.3010	10.2860-10.3090	6-7c	6-7c	
Paris	6.2030-6.2310	6.2030-6.2110	21-25c	10-13c	
Singapore	11.6640-11.6680	11.6640-11.6680	6-7c	6-7c	
Tokyo	117.407-117.462	117.417-117.437	21-25c	10-13c	
Vienina	17.00-17.14	17.00-17.05	21-25c	61-65c	
Zurich	2.2365-2.2508	2.2365-2.2390	1-1/2c	1-1/2c	

Source: Reuters

Forward - pr. Discount - pr.

OTHER STERLING		DOLLAR SPOT RATES	
Argentina pear	1.4883-1.4908	Australia	1.4044-1.4054

Brail cruising	37058.5-37084.6	Canada	1.25-1.30	15.56-11.53
Cyprus pound	0.724-73	Denmark	6.2561-6.2591	1.57-1.59
Philippine marks	8.748-8.8008	France	5.5278-5.5285	
Groen drachms	327.25-334.25	Germany	5.5278-5.5285	
Hong Kong dollars	11.52226-11.5232	Hong Kong	7.7308-7.7318	
India rupee	46.15-47.14	Indonesia	16.727-16.817	
Korean dollar	0.45-0.46	Italy	16.115-16.125	
Malaysia dollar	3.8604-3.8661	Japan	116.89-116.94	
Kenya sh	4.5-4.6	Netherlands	6.9305-6.9320	
New Zealand dollar	2.7896-2.7932	Netherlands	13.510-13.520	
Saudi Arabian riyal	5.537-5.563	Portugal	6.9305-6.9320	
Singapore dollar	2.4452-2.4483	Spain	150.81-150.88	
S. Africa rand (fin)	6.8074-6.8569	Singapore	1.616-1.6215	
S. Africa rand (com)	4.75-4.76	Switzerland	1.5046-1.5050	
U.A.E. dirham	5.4205-5.4245	Sweden		
		Switzerland		

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MONEY RATES (%)				
Base Rates Clearing Banks	6	15	30	60
Discount Market Loans	Overnight	Low 3	Week	Fixed 5y
Treasury Bills (Oct)	2 mth 5 1/4	3 mth 5 1/4	6 mth 5 1/4	12 mth 5 1/4
Prime Bank Bills (Oct)	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4
Starting Money Rates	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4
Overnight open 5y close 3	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4
Local Authority Depos	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4
Sterling CDs	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4
Dollar CDs	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4
Building Society CDs	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4

ECGD: Fixed Rate Starting Export Finance. Male-up day. Scheme 1, 1992. Agreed Reference rate April 26, 1992 to May 25, 1993. Scheme 2, 7.50%. Scheme 3 & 4, 7.50%. Reference rate Feb 27, 1993 to March 31, 1993. Scheme 4 & 5, 6.028%.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)				
Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth
Dollar	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4
Deutschmark	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4
French Franc	11 1/4	10 1/4	10 1/4	10 1/4
Swiss Franc	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4
Italian Lira	10 1/4	10 1/4	10 1/4	10 1/4
Japanese Yen	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4

OIL AND PETROLEUM METALS (USD)				
Bullion: spot \$12.80-12.85	Close \$336.25-336.75	High \$336.40-336.90		
Low \$332.00-332.50	Newmarket: \$335.50-337.50	\$332.50-335.50		
Spot: \$330.00-332.00	Settle: \$330.00-332.00	New \$330.00-332.00		
Settle: \$330.25-332.00	Settle: \$330.25-332.00	Settle: \$330.25-332.00		



LITERATURE page 31
V.S. Naipaul: one of the best known of the many multi-cultural authors now enjoying success

ARTS

MUSIC page 31
John Eliot Gardiner: one of Britain's busiest conductors, he is only rarely to be found here



Ruth Gledhill on Glasgow's newest museum, celebrating the city's religious diversity

From Mungo to the Muslims

The opening of a museum of religious life and art on Saturday in Glasgow might tempt some to think that mammon has at last won the battle over God: that religion is history, a subject of curios and artefacts, to be pondered only on a rainy Saturday afternoon when Celtic are playing away.

It comes at a time when the city's original motto, "Lord, Let Glasgow flourish by the preaching of the word and praising thy name", has been reduced colloquially to the shorter, apparently Godless, "Let Glasgow flourish".

But far from consigning religion to further oblivion with the relic's antiquity, the £6 million St Mungo Museum suggests a city about to rediscover its religious heritage. The museum is a celebration of how Glasgow, once a predominantly Christian community, has in the last two centuries welcomed active, worshipping communities from almost all main religions.

In a new building next to Glasgow's medieval cathedral, St Mungo's grew out of failed plans to build a centre for cathedral visitors. It is named after Kemigern Mungo, the saint and bishop who founded Glasgow in AD 543 and made it a centre of mission.

When it became clear that the £1 million, raised by the cathedral's Society of Friends was not enough to complete the new centre, Glasgow City Council stepped in with a rescue package. Funds from the council, the Scottish Tourist Board and the Glasgow Development Agency transformed the proposed centre into a museum.

Some exhibits have been taken from the city's other galleries. Eight in ten exhibits, including some from the city's Burrell collection, have not been seen before. Glasgow's religious communities were consulted and donated objects. Julian Spalding, the city's director of museums, says "With their continued participation, we hope that the museum will in some way contribute to the creation of a society better able to celebrate and respect diversity of belief."

The museum fascinates at spiritual and temporal levels. It offers a whistle-stop tour of 450 exhibits from ancient and living religions and is complemented by a book, *The St Mungo Museum*, compiled with the help of Professor Ninian Smart.

Relics stemming from the worship of the Greek gods sit alongside exhibits of Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity, Sikhism and Taoism. For Judaism and Islam, where images of living creatures are discouraged, the museum has a "spice tower", used to mark the end of the Jewish Sabbath, and a 17th-century Islamic Turkish prayer rug. Glasgow has a thriving Jewish community, a result of flight from Czarist persecution in the 19th century and the Nazis in the 20th.



Illustrating the religious history of the west of Scotland: Alexander Johnstone's *The Covenanters' Wedding* (1842) shows a couple forced into a secret wedding

Christianity dominates. This has been a Christian country for 1,000 years, so inevitably that has an effect," says Mark O'Neill, the city's senior curator of history. Salvador Dalí's *Christ of St John of the Cross*, inspired by a sketch attributed to the mystic Carmelite friar St John of the Cross, painted in 1951 and bought by the city in 1952, has been moved to St Mungo's from the city's Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove. This masterpiece, arguably the most famous religious work of the 20th century, is certain to be a top attraction, helping to bring in up to 500,000 visitors a year.

But the Dalí is counterbalanced by another modern work considered by some to be of equal stature, and one of the few new purchases for the museum. Ahmed Moos-tafa's *Attributes of Divine Perfection* combines the calligraphic

and geometric tradition in Islamic art. "It is as powerful a statement about Islam as the Dalí is about Christianity," says O'Neill. Wherever possible, attempts have been made to balance equally the world's main religions. Moving verbal testimonies from local communities have been recorded and are played in the museum. A Muslim girl speaks of arranged marriages: "My main concern is that my parents are happy. As long as my parents are happy I am happy. I trust them completely, absolutely, 100 per cent. Some people do not really understand arranged marriages but it really shows how much we trust our parents."

A Glasgow rabbi who survived the Nazi Holocaust has donated the prayer book he used in a concentration camp. A local Jewish woman

speaks of a conference she attended on the Holocaust: "Someone said, 'Can't you forgive?' The answer was, 'Who are we to forgive? We did not die.'"

"The aim is to promote respect and understanding"

The museum is divided into three galleries; the first a religious art gallery and the third devoted to the religious history of the west of Scotland, a compelling story of conflict and triumph which has left an indelible stamp on the Scottish character. Alexander Johnstone's *The Covenanters' Wedding* (1842)

shows a couple forced into a secret wedding after the Covenanters faced persecution for opposing royal interference with the Scottish prayer book.

A 19th-century Nigerian carved, spotted figure is a chilling reminder of how damage can be incorporated into belief when religions and cultures meet. The figure, from the Yoruba people, represents the spirit of smallpox, a disease feared as a cult spirit after it was brought to Africa by Europeans.

Such phenomena are often used to condemn colonialism and the missionary endeavours of that era, but the practices of isolated tribes not exposed to Western influence seem even more shocking to Western eyes. The museum's second gallery, on the "batch, march and dispatch" role of religion in almost every culture, in-

cludes a *Sande* mask, from Sierra Leone in West Africa. The mask is worn during the initiation of girls into womanhood, which includes female circumcision.

With 420 employees, Glasgow has Britain's largest museums department. O'Neill, largely responsible for the idea for St Mungo's, says: "We were reviewing the history of Glasgow. One of the things that was most noticeably missing [from existing galleries and museums] was that Glasgow was a multi-cultural society. Religion seemed an interesting way of approaching the problem. Our aim is to promote mutual respect and understanding of different religions. We are trying to get rid of prejudice, on the grounds that it is mostly based on ignorance."

St Mungo Museum (041-553 2557) opens on Saturday. Normal hours: Mon-Sat 10am-5pm; Sun 11am-5pm

ARTS BRIEFING

Coliseum sings a sad song

THIS hasn't been a very good year for English National Opera, financially speaking. The company has announced that it is ending its 1992-93 financial year today with a deficit of approximately £1 million. This follows last year's surplus of nearly £100,000. The company's accumulated deficit now stands just over £2 million.

So what went wrong? Pa attendances for the 1992-93 year averaged just under 65 per cent over all performances (most popular was *Carmen*, least popular was *Hansel and Gretel*), a drop of 6 per cent over the previous year; income from sponsorship and donation, which totalled a healthy £1.1 million, was some £200,000 short of the budgeted target.

And ENO suffered a financial blow on its 1992 summer dance season at the Coliseum. The Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre, presented by ENO, lost some £60,000 as a direct result of lowering prices at the last moment to maximise accessibility while the Berlin Ballet, which was on a straight rental basis, "showed an amount of some £90,000 still owing to ENO." The company is now pursuing the matter through its lawyers.

On April 27, Dennis Marks, the new general director, and Sia Edwards, the new music director, will announce the 1993-94 season.

WHAT happens to them now? The Red Army Ensemble has been popular around the world ever since it was founded in 1937, but with the collapse of the old Soviet system of state subsidy, the future of the 100-strong troupe of singers, dancers and musicians is in doubt. The company, now rechristened the Red Army of Russia, arrives in Britain today for what is billed as a "farewell tour" to the UK. It opens at the Wycombe Swan Theatre, in High Wycombe tonight before coming to the Festival Hall on April 3. The troupe ends at the Congress Theatre in Eastbourne on May 5.

Last chance...

THOUGH some link might possibly be made between the highly formalised watercolours of the architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh and the regimented forms of the immediately pre-first world war British avant-garde artists known as Vorticists, Mackintosh and the Vorticists at the Fine Arts Society (071-629 5116) until Friday does not attempt to make it. Rather Mackintosh and the Vorticists are grouped because they come together in the distinguished (anonymous) private collection from which this show is drawn.

TELEVISION REVIEW

Not homeless, more hopeless

Godness knows what the point was. Last night's *Come On Down and Out* (Channel 4) was a spoof game show in which three homeless people (who appeared not to be acting) competed for a huge four-bedroom house and came away with nothing. But although the programme had to be false in every respect — chirpy theme tune, excitable audience, unfair rules, tasteless jokes — it was still extremely confusing. For example, whereas the live audience booed at the callous remarks of natty compere Andrew O'Connor, they also laughed and clapped when the makeshift cardboard homes erected by the contestants were deliberately sent toppling over by a single blast from a hair-dryer.

As part of the channel's "Gimme Shelter" season, *Come On Down and Out* was crass and discouraging. It managed to say not very much about game shows at the same time as saying not very much about homelessness either.

The point seemed to be that since game shows ritually subject their contestants to indignity, why not show them torturing people with nothing left to lose? Take Nicole, the contestant with a two-year-old daughter and a second child on the way. In the cheeky "What happened next?" round (filmed in advance), she was shown returning to her hostel to find that her child

had been "taken into care". On grainy video, shot as if from a hidden camera, she screamed and fought with a policeman, and grabbed for the little girl.

"I can't believe you fell for it!" exclaimed O'Connor, after the applause died down. "You really got me," shrugged Nicole good-naturedly. "I really believed it."

Nasty, not funny, this stuff was certainly uncomfortable to watch, but mainly because it was a terrible idea. The proper use of irony is to expose a general lazy assumption — but what was the object here? Whoever thought the homeless weren't defenceless? Whoever thought life, or the game show, was fair? The hell with it, I say. If it made viewers feel angry, it was not homelessness they were furious about. It was the chaps at Channel 4.

So far, it must be said, "Gimme Shelter" is raising issues more by accident than by design. Fields Apart on ITV (Central's "Viewpoint 93") was ostensibly about the battle between the rent people of Lincoln's Inn Fields and the local office workers who threatened to sue the council if they weren't removed. But it wasn't much of a battle really, since the shanty-town dwellers simply moved away when Camden erected some fences; and the real focus of the programme somehow shifted to that tricky



False impression? Amabel Giles and Andrew O'Connor on Channel 4's game show, *Come On Down and Out*

philosophical problem at the heart of all donations to the homeless, that of the ungrateful pauper.

I mean, these blokes were damned fussy. Isn't it an affront to one's liberal notions of charity when poor people turn up their noses at free Marks & Spencer sandwiches? When they get so satiated with strawberries they throw them away? When they turn down cigarettes if they are the wrong

brand? "It's a struggle really to survive when you're a vegan," said this permissive man in a bobble-hat, genuinely sorry for himself. When you're a what? A vegan? He cast his expert eye over the nutritional information on a tin of soup, recently distributed by a philanthropist from a London cab. "Might be all right," he averred, as the taxi roared off. "No additives."

LYNNE TRUSS

RADIO REVIEW: Derwent May

Singular pairing

In one of his letters, Philip Larkin said that the main feeling in Barbara Pym's novels was "the pain of being single" — in fact that in her books "nobody can even see why the single person shouldn't suffer, like a Victorian cab-horse". That is certainly true of the lady's companion, Miss Morrow, in *Crampton Hodnet*, the Pym novel that is now running as a dramatisation on Radio 4 (Thursdays, 10am on FM).

It is set in the 1930s, in a north Oxford house where Miss Morrow's employer, the heartless and bossy Miss Doggett, takes in a young curate as her lodger. Pym had a marvellous feeling for that very English kind of milieu — "Lemington Lodge", the house is called — with its stream of small, quotidian pleasures, its veiled hostilities and its muffled sufferings.

However Miss Morrow, like many of Pym's single women with limited lives, is also a very delightful person, sharp-eyed and witty, even if she keeps her remarks to herself, and she is very convincingly and brightly played here by Samantha Bond. She is like the yeast in the seed-cake; but the whole scene is deftly brought to life, with its dons, undergraduates and church folk. Radio suits Pym well.

Larkin's remark about single people might also be very aptly applied to Norman, the hero of Ronald Harwood's play *The Dresser* (Radio 3, Monday). This is about an old actor-manager, known only as "Sir" (or "Bonzo" to his wife),

who is playing Lear in an English provincial town one night during the war.

At first, I thought it was not going to work very well on radio. The pompous assertions and groans of Sir and the unflinching cheerfulness and chatter of Norman, his dresser, seemed very thin without the physical presence of the actors on the stage, where their bodily language would add its own richness to the silly things they were saying.

But as the tension grew over whether Sir — increasingly ill and terrified — could be persuaded by Norman to go on, I found myself completely drawn in. There was a splendid comic moment when the actors had to improvise while waiting for him: "Methought I saw the king," "Methought I saw the king," "Methought I saw the king... No, I was mistook."

In the nick of time he does go on, and gives what he feels has been the best performance of his life. It is afterwards that the pathos mounts — and it ends in Sir's death, and Norman's utter desolation. Sir was played with the right balance of rant and real feeling by Freddie Jones, who took the part in the original West End production. Norman was Michael Palin, who successfully took us behind all the teasing and cajoling and nursing that Sir needed from him. He had loved Sir more, and given him more devotion, than anyone — and at the end had to recognise that he had never been noticed any more than the old Victorian cab-horse.

FIDELIO

BEETHOVEN



TICKETS AVAILABLE

2, 6, 10, 12, 15 APRIL
AT 7.30PM



GALLERIES: John Russell Taylor on a show of the stage designs of John Piper

Frames for music and dance

Though famed as a painter for years before he took up the stage design seriously, John Piper was never the kind of artist who thought it sufficient to put his paintings on stage. Rather, the reverse, in fact. During the Thirties, before he had really tried his hand at the stage (the first attempt was Stephen Spender's *Trial of a Judge* in 1938), Piper was regularly painting abstracts which looked suspiciously solid, like sets for unwritten plays: same sort of framing devices, same stratagems for creating a sense of recession and perspective.

Trial of a Judge at the Unicorn Theatre merely extended this a little. The show John Piper and the Stage at Pallant House, Chichester, is in fact abstract to go with Spender's symbolic, non-realistic text. But with the coming of the war, Piper abandoned for ever his abstract work, and concentrated instead on highly Romantic evocations of country houses against stormy skies, woods full of tangled undergrowth, and urban bomb damage lit with a fiftieth, theatrical glare. It was a very different world from the clinical socialism of the leading Thirties poets, but Piper seemed equally at home with the Romantic excesses of the Dylan Thomas generation.

The first substantial evidence of this on stage came in his settings for the William Walton/Frederick Ashton ballet *The Quest*, which all took place in bosky dells and under full, Palmerish harvest moons. That was in 1943, and the designs came as near as he ever did to making paintings in the form of backdrops and putting people in front of them. With *Oedipus Rex* for the Old Vic in 1945 he went to the other extreme: this was a fully dimensional set which called on his considerable knowledge of historical architecture. But the vital moment in Piper's stage career came a year later, with his designs for the English Opera Group's production of Britten's second opera, *The Rape of Lucretia*.

From then on, though he worked for various producers and even became a sort of producer himself, being instrumental in the revival of the Kenton Theatre, Henley-on-Thames, the heart of Piper's theatrical work, and most of his finest, was involved in two lifelong collaborations, with Benjamin Britten and John Cranko. For Britten he designed eight operas, from *The Rape of Lucretia* to the last, *Death in Venice* (the libretto of which, like several others, was written by his wife Malfamy Piper) in 1973, as well as the ballet *Prince of the Pagodas*. For Cranko he worked on eight productions in all, six ballets (including *Prince of the Pagodas*), one opera, and Cranko's surrealistic revue *Cranks*. In both the composer and the



Crumbling canals and palaces: One of John Piper's designs for the stage set of Britten's *Death in Venice*

choreographer he found sensibilities closely in tune with his own. With Britten he could evoke the crumbling palaces and canals of Venice, the darkly glowing splendours of *Gloriana's* court, the haunted country houses of *The Turn of the Screw* and *Owen Wingrave*, the bloody world of *Lucretia* and the Arabian Nights fantasy of *The Prince of the Pagodas* with a sensitivity to texture and nuance, matching Britten's own. Cranko's imaginative world was rather different, more inclined to the spiky and

rather oddball, even though their collaboration began with the eminently romantic Sibelius ballet *Sea Change* in 1949. But Piper could call up a quirky sense of humour and a fund of fantastical whimsy to match Cranko's own, and the very restricted means available originally for *Cranks* (before it became a surprise West End success) obviously brought out a brilliantly inventive streak in Piper.

However it is back to the Britten operas that one comes for the finest and most varied effects. From the palpable

shipboard setting for *Billy Budd* to the filmic inventions (not lacking a sinister element) for the operatic *Midsummer Night's Dream*, there is no faulting the variety of his responses. Piper was always a distinctive, and in the right circumstances, a truly great, theatrical designer, and it is curiously apt that this first major museum show devoted to him since his death should so vividly remind us of that fact.

● Pallant House, 9 North Pallant, Chichester (0243 774557) Tues-Sat 10am-5.30pm, until April 2

DANCE REVIEW

Not unblemished beauties

FOR the final performances of its present *Sleeping Beauty*, the Royal Ballet has brought in two fresh casts: Sylvie Guillem with Jonathan Cope, Viviana Durante with Bruce Sansom. Both are popular (full and enthusiastic houses matinee and evening last Saturday), both have real virtues: neither quite what one might hope. The production is part of the problem; thank heaven it is to be replaced next spring by a new one. In spite of many adjustments since it was unveiled in 1977, this version has always looked a poor imitation of the glorious Oliver Messel staging which re-opened Covent Garden in 1946.

Costumes, setting and lighting do not focus the principal roles sharply enough, and the staging does too little to help. Guillem, however, imposes her own concept of the role: light, bright and brilliant. This suits the smiling young Princess of Act I and the radiant bride of Act III, but she has not caught the dreamy romance of Act II. For some reason she eliminated the *penché arabesque* in the Rose Adagio — but anyway the production has long endured the reason for this. She did restore a long-lost old Royal Ballet

The Sleeping Beauty
Covent Garden

trick in that dance, having her four partners stand well back until she had struck her sensational balances.

Among the home-bred contenders, Sansom's Florindor made the sharp impact; his fine, elegant line and quiet personality concealed a lot of power under exact control. Cope's improved acting since his return to the company is off-set by a lack of polish in his big solo. Durante has not developed her Aurora as much as some other roles; this is a very up and down interpretation, attractive at best, routine at worst.

Unexpectedly, there were two new bluebirds on display: a very junior dancer, Jonathan Howells, showing raw promise, and a sneak preview, fluent although not very soaring, of the company's latest recruit, Jose Manuel Carreno, announced for his official debut late next month. Lesanne Benjamin gave a stately performance as Carreno's enchanted princess.

JOHN PERCIVAL

ROCK REVIEW

Freewheeling recyclers

IF SUEDE are British rock's Manchester United, then the Quireboys are its Wimbledon F.C. Suede's artful ambiguities and stylistic knowingsness seem miles from the Quireboys' uncomplicated rock 'n' roll. Both bands hark back to the 1970s for their inspiration, but where Suede settle on David Bowie, the Quireboys opt for Rod Stewart and the Faces.

For the Quireboys, "art" is no more than the collection of letters in the word "party". They ended their concert at the University of East Anglia with one of their hits, "7 O'Clock" (sample lyric: "It's time to party"). It merely underlined the evening's only theme and accounts for the six-piece band's favoured formula of barroom piano, rhythm and blues guitar, belted vocals and leery lyrics.

Their act is a straightforward celebration, with the odd regret, of the band's "roll" lifestyle, which they live out enthusiastically. This appears to explain why the band have taken three years to get from their million-selling debut album to their second, *Bitter Sweet and Twisted*. Neither the songs nor the subject matter have changed much in the interim.

The Quireboys
UEA, Norwich

Guitarist Guy Bailey, his face obscured by hair, wears a Davy Crockett hat. But such sartorial splendour cannot detract from the group's centre of attention, singer Spike. His voice, a raucous croak may belong in the narrow band of the ERM, but his permanent grin and cheery demeanour offer compensations. Every song starts or finishes with a hearty "awright". His technique works best on the chugging riffs of "Don't Bite the Hand" or "Tramps and Thieves". It is a bit exposed on ballads such as "King of New York" or "Last Time".

Spike's stagecraft combines a masterly imitation of Mick Jagger's pouting strut and of Rod Stewart's mike-stand acrobatics. Much less endearingly, he seems to have their taste for misogynist lyrics. The Quireboys, an entertaining compound of rock clichés, will not win any rock leagues, but do not deserve to be relegated yet.

JOHN STREET

LONDON

PELLEAS ET MELISANDE With Claudio Abbado at the helm the Royal Opera offers an engrossing performance of Debussy's intense masterpiece. Any reservations about the understated staging are swept away by the string of Francesco von Stade and Françoise Le Roux (in the title roles) and Victor Braun (Solais).

PHILHARMONIA Maria Jello performs Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4, sandwiched between Beethoven's Overture Prometheus and Chopin's Second Symphony. John Eliot Gardiner conducts. Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (071-928 8800), 7.30pm.

SPRING LOADED Two of the most popular dance companies in the country, the all-female Chamberlain and all-male Featherfall, both perform in a new work by choreographer Les Anderson. Phoenix, 17 Duke's Road, WC1 (071-867 0031), 8pm, until April 10.

THE SCHOOL OF NIGHT Peter Whelan's evocative and thrilling drama of medieval life, set in a castle, is performed by Richard McCabe. The Phil Barlow Centre, EC2 (071-638 5891). Preview tonight, 8pm, 7.15pm, until April 6, 7pm.

NEW MORNING Decca Hughes's new play for Dublin's sparkling Rough Magic company, two sisters go on a company weekend and the ghost of David appears. Bush, Shepherd's Bush Green, W12 (0181-627100). Preview tonight, 8pm, until April 2, 8pm, until April 2.

TOMMY SMITH QUARTET The young Scottish jazz quartet, whose dazzling technique and Brecht-influenced line has secured them a place alongside the best of the new British players, continues its extensive

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kari Knight

national tour to promote a new album, Pans, Jazz Café, 15a Parkway, London NW1 (071-916 8000), 7pm.

MARJORIE WHYTE AND ONE MORE THING A jazz pianist, whose many skills include writing, dancing, composing and playing piano, the young British pianist Anne Whited features in the all-women, nine-piece support band. Further support from Peter McNeilly and Mike 3. Union Chapel, Canon Avenue, N1 (071-228 1888), 7pm.

QUICKSILVER A series of 1000s of British produced prints of various kinds, starting with a series of Cubist etchings, but he really concentrated on printmaking after 1945, when he started to make lithographs and linocuts, producing some of his most famous images in the way. Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1 (071-421 1313), Mon-Sat, 10am-5.30pm, Sun, 2-5.30pm, until June 27.

TRADITION AND REVOLUTION IN FRENCH ART This show representing a collection — that of the Musée des Beaux-Arts in Lille, temporarily closed for refurbishment — gives a very far idea of the cross currents in French art between 1700 and 1880. The artist's strength is in fine works by painters like Jean-François de Troy and Louis Boucher. National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (071-483 3331), Mon-Sat, 10am-5.30pm, Sun, 11am-5.30pm, until July 11.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only

Some seats available

Seats at all prices

ALDWYCH The Aldwych, WC2 (071-436 5404), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, matinee Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

THE INVISIBLE MAN Not so easy as it seems as a thriller in the East End, but the show is as good as over. Paul Weller's magic tricks are amazing. Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (071-326 9987), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, matinee Wed, Sat, 2.30pm, 10.15pm.

KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN Tremendously glossy production of the Kander & Ebb musical, based on Manuel Puig's novel. A new cast takes over led by Bette Midler. Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-739 5389), Mon-Sat, 8pm, matinee Wed, Sat, 3pm, 10.15pm.

THE LAST YANKEE Subtle and touching Arthur Miller premiere. Margot Lindsay, Strand, WC2 (071-326 9987), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, matinee Wed, Sat, 2.30pm, 10.15pm.

LOST IN YONKERS Tenth performance by Rosemary Harris in a highly entertaining comedy. Strand, Aldwych, WC2 (071-436 5404), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, matinee Wed, Sat, 2.30pm, 10.15pm.

THE EUROPEANS The West End School, appearing in London, is a present the latest, set at a time of European unity when Vienna was freed from the Nazis in 1945. Greenwich, Greenwich, SE10 (081-658 7755), Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, matinee Wed, Sat, 2.30pm, 10.15pm.

FRANK PIG SAYS HELLO Quirky and funny, this show is a real treat. In a high-tech production, it's a real treat. Theatrical, Strand, Aldwych, WC2 (071-436 5404), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, matinee Wed, Sat, 2.30pm, 10.15pm.

THE GIFT OF THE GORGON Stunning performance by Les Darnley in a production by Michael Pennington in which Peter Shaffer's RSC success is lacking the themes of justice and revenge. Theatrical, Strand, Aldwych, WC2 (071-436 5404), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, matinee Wed, Sat, 2.30pm, 10.15pm.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST Maggie Smith commands the little world of lost hands in this elegant revival. With Alex Jennings, Richard E. Grant, Margaret Tyacke.

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Imagination knows no frontiers

Nicolette Jones on the growing interest in writers whose work reflects the diverse cultural influences of a post-colonial society

We have just seen the publication of the first novel in English since *Clarissa*, on sale for the highest price ever for a novel in this country (£20), bought by its publishers (Phoenix House) for an exceptional £250,000, and greeted, give or take the odd dissenting voice, by some of the most enthusiastic reviews a novel has earned in years. Vikram Seth's *A Suitable Boy* is also being reprinted even as it is published — the first 20,000 copies have already been taken in by the bookshops, indicating that they expect the public to snap it up, even though it is hardly a snip.

Meanwhile, this month the £30,000 David Cohen Prize for British Literature was awarded to V.S. Naipaul, adding a new honour to the knighthood he received in 1990. This spring's Best of Young British promotion includes Ben Okri (winner of the 1991 Booker Prize for *The Famished Road*, and author of the just-published *Songs of Enchantment*), Caryl Phillips (*Sunday Times* Young Writer of the Year in 1992, whose *Crossing the River* is out next month) and Hanif Kureishi, one of Faber and Faber's highest selling novelists of recent years with the Whitbread-winning *The Buddha of Suburbia*. Furthermore, the Caribbean poet Derek Walcott, awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature last October, had already had his epic poem *Omoo* chosen by just about everyone as their book of the year in 1991.

What do these events have in common? The fact that all these successful writers have (at least) two cultures in their luggage — one of them Anglo-American, the other the culture of a former colony.

Seth, though Indian, has lived in England and California, the setting of his virtuoso first novel *The Golden Gate*; Naipaul's family is



Derek Walcott, Ben Okri, Vikram Seth, V.S. Naipaul: stylistically and thematically worlds apart, but collectively their reception is a sign of a widening breadth of interest in our literary establishment

Indian but he grew up in Trinidad; Okri is Nigerian; Phillips came to England as a baby from St Kitts; Kureishi's father is Pakistani; Walcott lives both in St Lucia and Boston.

Lumping these writers together is otherwise arbitrary — stylistically and thematically they could not be more various. Nor do they always see eye to eye with each other: Walcott, for example, disapproves of Naipaul's depiction of Caribbean culture. (Naipaul appears in a Walcott poem as "V.S. Nightfall"). Nevertheless, collectively their reception is a sign of, and contributes to, a widening breadth of interest in our literary establishment, and reflects the pluralism of British readers. Cross-cultural talent may have been burgeoning for some 30 years (since Naipaul's *A House for Mr Biswas* in 1961), but this latest efflorescence is further evidence that we have reached a phase in our literary history in which the Empire strikes back.

This trend has changed English literature. These writers are not on its margins; they have become the

canon. The poet Joseph Brodsky, himself a Nobel laureate, has said of Derek Walcott, for instance, that: "He is the man by whom the English language lives." The new post-colonial literature exemplified by these writers and others like them aspires to be international in its concerns while its style marries the English literary tradition with other traditions.

Seth, for instance, admits a debt to 19th-century English novels — comparisons have been made to Dickens and George Eliot — even as he illuminates Indian life in the 1950s. Ben Okri draws on wild African superstition for his surreal and spiritual tales but writes with the formal and elegant precision — though not the attitudes — of an English public schoolmaster.

The mood of such literature (albeit also of the literature of Europe and South America) has pervaded the writing even of those who do not have more than one culture in their own upbringing. Even if provincial Englishness is all you know, it has become unfashionable to write about it. Few

people dare to carve their own inch of ivory any more, to write the cosy, thinly disguised autobiography. It is not surprising that last year's Booker Prize was shared by a novel with a European and historical setting, written by a Canadian (Michael Ondaatje's *The English Patient*) and a story of the slave trade written by a white Englishman, Barry Unsworth's *Sacred Hunger*.

Martin Amis has characterised the fiction that has been left behind as the "225-page, well-lit, well-made novel about middle-class lives". Kazuo Ishiguro, himself a bi-cultural Booker Prize winner, has commented: "There is a post-colonial awareness that Britain is not necessarily the centre of the world, or automatically of interest to everybody else."

So who is interested in these other settings? Are the authors

writing for a different community from the one they are writing about? Certainly Seth's book has caused as much of a stir in India as it has in Britain; he is much in the media there too. And he claims not to have made concessions in his writing to his Anglo-American audience.

"When I wrote *The Golden Gate* I did not make an effort to make Californian life accessible to the Indian reader so why should I do so for foreign readers?"

In some cases, the settings are not so distant. Hanif Kureishi writes out of the Anglo-American experience in Britain. Some of *The Buddha of Suburbia*'s success must come from a readership that shares this experience. But not all of it. Robert McCrum of Faber, Kureishi's publisher, comments that, although this particular book was hugely successful, it was an

exception: the market for novels by black or Asian Britons is only "slightly bigger" because of the interest of their own ethnic communities. But he adds that "the literature of former colonies has an energy to it that is not always to be found at home. Partly because of the subject. These writers have something new to write about. They are mapping new ground."

McCrumb, who was an unsuccessful bidder for *A Suitable Boy*, claims he has a yet more inspiring author, to be published in August. Upamanyu Chatterjee's *The Last Burden*, he says, "is more complex and subtle" than Seth's book. "It tells you what the real India is like," Seth, by comparison, he insists, is "like an Indian *The Archers*." If McCrum is right, the tide of exceptionally talented post-colonial writers is not about to ebb. Perhaps Chatterjee, like Faber's Robin Mistry, who made the Booker shortlist in 1991 with his first novel, will also hit the critical big time.

What still seems to be lacking, though, is a comparable wave of

equally successful female authors. Apart from Anita Desai, who was shortlisted for the Booker Prize in 1980 and 1984, few Anglo-Indian women have achieved the same combination of popular success and critical regard. Some critics have seen a possible successor to Desai in Sunetra Gupta, whose *Memories of Rain* has been rapturously received in Britain and America, and whose second novel, *The Glassblower*, is shortly to be published. Gupta is hardly alone in achieving publication — Virago, for one, has a strong list of titles by black and Asian women — but not many find the mainstream success that has been enjoyed by their male counterparts.

For the colonies to yield us such riches longer after we have ceased to plunder them seems more than we deserve. But if we have welcomed their wealth gratefully into the mainstream — often with its reassessments of the damage that was done by the Empire — and if pluralism is the order of the day, why do the highest accolades still elude the women?

'Literature has reached a phase where the Empire strikes back'

MUSIC: Stephen Pettitt reviews the European Community Youth Orchestra and profiles John Eliot Gardiner

THEATRE: New plays in Nottingham and Edinburgh

Call of the wild

ECYO/Abbado, Wigglesworth Festival Hall

Either you can stomach your Beethoven. Evelyn Kissin's way or you cannot. His reading on Sunday night of the "Emperor" Concerto was the very antithesis of, say, that of Brendel (who as a trustee of the Keyboard Trust for Young Professional Performers, in whose aid this concert was given, sat in the audience). Outward, extravagant gesture and wanton eccentricity predominated, at the expense of inner spirituality. It was tantamount to sacrilege, but by heavens it was exciting.

Kissin made the piano's opening chords roll grandly, with such a thick sound and at such a level that they could probably have been heard over at the Barbican. Everything was extreme. Always the colours dazzled.

But this is a pianist who one suspects plays into, rather than onto, the keys. Thus he finds it impossible to make a bridge sound, though his fingers, deceptively powerful, must test the robustness of even a modern Steinway to its very limits.

Accompanying this wild young man cannot be easy, but Claudio Abbado and the European Community Youth Orchestra made it seem so with their crisp and equally sonorous contributions, full of confidence save for an occasionally slightly wavering horn section, and with strings whose *elan* approached that of the Vienna Philharmonic. The excitement they felt at the occasion was palpable, and it did not diminish when for the second half Abbado gave way on the podium to Mark Wigglesworth for Shostakovich's Tenth Symphony.

Wigglesworth, conducting from memory, exercised his own considerable charisma to engineer a first movement whose progress from austerity to massive tragedy was well controlled. The ensuing Allegro was viciously biting, the Allegretto had a properly acidic naivety and coarseness, and the finale's empty romp had dark overtones that surely could not be missed.



Forging new partnerships: John Eliot Gardiner, a conductor not known for his willingness to accept the status quo

When John Eliot Gardiner conducts the Philharmonia Orchestra tonight he will be fulfilling a singularly unostentatious obligation: each season he gives just one concert with them. He likes doing it, admiring both the high quality of the orchestra and what he calls its "chameleon-like" ability to adapt quickly to his ideas about sound and interpretation. But he is a man who, like Simon Rattle, prefers closer ties with his orchestras. It enables him to bring his own principles of music-making, based on thorough preparation but on live as opposed to wholly prepared responses, to bear on them.

So far, apart from taking care of his own period instrument ensembles — when we speak he is enthusing over his *Romantic Revolution* at the orchestra's latest project, performing and recording the early Messe Solenne of Berlioz, recently discovered in an organ loft in Antwerp — he has found such permanence only abroad. From 1983 he spent five highly successful years as music director at the Opéra de Lyon, where he was able to recruit an orchestra from scratch. Since 1991 he has been principal conductor of the North German Radio Symphony Orchestra in Hamburg, with whom he is about to make his debut on Deutsche Grammophon's famous yellow label.

Variations on a new theme

The nature of his position in Hamburg is quite different from anything else he has yet experienced, in that he has no power to hire and fire. "I've had to accept their autonomy. It's a question of the art of the possible. You're dealing with a conventionally trained, conventionally equipped symphony orchestra with a very strong tradition of playing Bruckner, and not having a very wide repertoire."

His game plan for the NDR's development he describes as a "pincer movement" of playing the German early Romantics and bringing in virtuosos 20th-century masterpieces with which the orchestra is unfamiliar. They have already recorded, live in Liseba, Britten's *War Requiem* (for release in the summer), and *The Dream of Gerontius* and Kurt Weill's *The Seven Deadly Sins* are also on the programme lists. "I want to try to loosen up their imaginations. They can't understand why in rehearsal I'll do something different from the previous day. They're used to having it all worked out."

What about modifying the sound itself? "Well, first I've

had to choose the repertoire around it. Then I've tried to clean it, to take out impressions and some of the fat; and then get them to play with more intent. They couldn't believe how much rubato I was doing in Brahms. That Viennese lilt doesn't come naturally to them. But they have a very persuasive dark brown, chocolatey sound, which is a character I want to retain."

Gardiner has obviously achieved something radical already: from initial doubts about recording the orchestra with Gardiner at all, DG has moved to a position of positive enthusiasm. The partnership's first disc, of Dvořák's *Symphonic Variations* and Czech Suite and a selection of Brahms's Hungarian Dances orchestrated by Dvořák and others, has an excitement, a spontaneity one might not expect.

If this liaison, of an orchestra stilled by its own solid traditions and a conductor not renowned for tact or willingness to accept the status quo, seems an unlikely one, Gardiner's forthcoming first en-

counter with the famously arrogant Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra next year is even more so. "I'm doing *The Merry Widow* with them. It's a piece I've wanted to do for a long time after doing so much *opéra comique* in France."

Does he anticipate conflict? "Not in *The Merry Widow*. If it had been Mozart, then yes. It's perfect repertoire. They'll play it as to the manner born, and they won't be jaded, because they haven't played it. I expect I'll have a great time."

Will they not be tempted to ask Gardiner for Mozart? "They already did. I said, 'Listen, what's the thing this orchestra most prides itself on?' 'Ah,' they said, 'Klang [an orchestra's distinctive sound]. Fine.' I said, 'That's exactly what I thought. Because your Klang and Mozart in my humble opinion don't go together. If I was to conduct Mozart with you I'd always be trying to change the thing you'd least wish to change. What's the point?' They respected that and asked what I would like to do with them. So I said Mahler and Zemlinsky and perhaps Strauss. And how about some Offenbach?' They said, 'We're fed up playing Beethoven and Brahms and Schubert and Schumann.' They admitted that. 'Oh, yes!'"

John Eliot Gardiner conducts the Philharmonia at the Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 071-928 6800, tonight, 7.30

Nostalgia tops the bill

Big Night Out at the Little Sands Picture Palace Playhouse, Nottingham



Usherettes: Una Stubbs, Sandi Toksvig, Anita Dobson

An axiom of showbiz is that if a theatre is threatened it should be saved, and no questions asked about whether a local audience exists for what it chooses to offer. The end-of-the-pier theatre in Sandi Toksvig's awkward play has been turned into a cinema, but at afternoon performances the usherettes outnumber the audience, and govtish Jack, who has inherited the crumbling hulk from an uncle, understandably wants to sell. This saddens Sandi, playing usherette Molly, as she lingers behind the screen on what used to be the theatre stage. Every now and then, when the other two usherettes fall silent and gaze into the middle distance, Sandi sees and hears (and so do we) spirits from those distant days when tumbler's nimbled, chappies did things with canes and Beverley Klein came on wearing ankle-length satin to sing "You're the Top" and "Paper Moon".

Una Stubbs, given virtually nothing to do as usherette Grace but smoke ciggies and make the occasional tart retort, complains that nothing happens at Little Sands. True, it is many years since Molly dropped her little sister

through a hole in a rotten plank at the end of the pier, but on this particular day Barbara (Anita Dobson) says Jack with a sword, his twin brother (a missionary in the Hebrides) develops religious mania. Barbara goes mad. Grace throws herself into the sea and Sandi hears Beverley telling us to forget all our troubles and get ready for Judgment Day. Not before time, I think.

Backstage is a world of wonders where, once upon a time, a pull on a rope could change a palace to a hotel. Many ropes are pulled in Pip Broughton's production, flights of steps are wheeled on, curtains descend for an acrobatic spirit to whizz down. The intention is to recapture the excitement of old-time entertainment, but when such paraphernalia has to be pushed into position in careful read-

ness the delights of quick-witted resourcefulness vanish. Dobson makes a coherent character of the soppy Barbara, stitching rag-dolls to give to the bereaved, but after she flies there is nowhere for her to go but to do what the play does, repeat the same small hand of tricks. Where a dead body was trundled this way and that on a trolley, now it goes that way and this on a rope. Toksvig provides no reason for these developments, except that there are ropes and trolleys and wall-ladders backstage so let's use them, guys. The bending wall-ladder trick is funny and Paul Slack (Jack) is nimble with pratfalls and bounce. But the material never gathers itself together into anything greater than a succession of bits, some of them adroit but most, sadly, rather dull.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Fantasy fails to take off

The Swan Traverse, Edinburgh

Simon Donald — who himself has written plays infinitely better than this. There follows an illogical and inconsistent sequence of events concerning Dora, her married milkman boyfriend, Kevin, and the swan who, named Bill, learns to speak.

All fantasy must have a point of reference, must make sense at least according to its

own rules. Egloff's play mixes visionary pseudo-poetics with aspiring social satire and a perfunctory and superficial nod at emotional relationships. But as none of the characters is in focus it is impossible to care about them or their patently manufactured dilemmas.

The play might emerge as fleet-footed and quicker-witted in a less leaden production than that of Les Waters. Bounding from the floor to the top of the fridge, from fridge to settee, Simon Donald is an athletic man-swan, though perhaps more marsupial than avian. Amelda Brown plays the whilingly indecisive Dora for more than the part is worth. As Kevin, a glazed-eyed Garry Cooper achieves a great deal less.

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Germans cut Krabbe drug suspension to 12 months



Krabbe: used clenbuterol

BY JOHN GOODBODY

KATRIN Krabbe, the world 100 and 200 metres champion, yesterday had a four-year suspension for alleged drug abuse cut to 12 months. However, although the ban ends on August 13, the opening day of the 1993 world championships, the German athlete will be unable to defend her two titles.

This is the second time the sprinter has escaped a four-year drugs ban and it is another embarrassing setback to sport's drug-testing programme. However, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) said it was unlikely to accept the ruling of the German Athletic Federation (DLV) that there was "no clear doping offence" in the cases of Krabbe,

24, and her German colleagues, Grit Breuer and Manuela Derr, whose suspensions have been reduced to one year and eight months respectively.

All three athletes have been found not guilty of violating drug regulations but instead have been suspended for "unsportsmanlike behaviour". Istvan Gyulai, the IAAF general secretary, added that Krabbe cannot compete at the world championships, which will be staged in Germany in August, because she will not have recorded the necessary qualifying times.

Gyulai said: "Clearly, the DLV decision seems to be against our rules, which, of course, we cannot accept. It is a funny decision. Either she is guilty or she is innocent. If she is guilty, the ban should

be for four years. If innocent, then it is zero years. One year does not have any meaning."

The DLV decision yesterday was made because, at the time that the three athletes gave urine samples last July, the DLV did not have clear regulations for suspending competitors found positive in out-of-competition testing. The status of the drug clenbuterol was also unclear.

Full details of the case will be forwarded to the IAAF medical commission and it is possible that the case will be referred to the arbitration panel for a final decision. On June 28, 1991, this panel cleared Krabbe, Breuer and Silke Möller on a legal technicality for allegedly manipulating urine samples the trio had given in training in South Africa. On analysis in

Cologne, the urine of the three athletes had been found to be tainted. However, the DLV was found to have no rules allowing it to ban athletes for positive out-of-competition tests.

However, specimens given by Krabbe, Breuer and Derr in training during July, showed that the competitors had taken clenbuterol, known as "doper's delight" because it is both a stimulant for humans and an anabolic agent in animals, while being a licensed drug in Germany for treating asthma.

Krabbe and Derr admitted taking the drug, given them by Thomas Springstein, their coach, to assist asthmatic conditions. Although the International Olympic Committee Medical Commission confirmed on July 31 that

clenbuterol was a banned drug both in and out of competition, the athletes' lawyers argued that at the time of the drug testing earlier that month, it was not a proscribed substance.

Last October, the British Amateur Weightlifters' Association cleared Andrew Davies and Andrew Saxton, the two competitors sent home from the Barcelona Olympic Games, for taking clenbuterol because it believed clenbuterol was not banned until July 31.

It was also only in November, 1992, that the DLV changed its regulations to cover out-of-competition testing and, therefore, this came too late to affect this latest Krabbe case.

The DLV was further advised that a four-year ban for a first

doping offence might be regarded as too harsh by the German civil courts. It will table a proposal to the IAAF before the world championships in Stuttgart, calling for a more flexible approach to doping offenders.

Tony Ward, the spokesman for the British Athletic Federation, said there was a need for all federations to get "their act together" on rules on doping. "Our rules are tightened down tightly and I could not envisage us having this sort of problem."

Zhou Xia, a Chinese swimmer, has been banned for two years after being found taking methandienone, an anabolic steroid, at a World Cup meeting in Beijing in January. She is the first case of a Chinese swimmer being found positive for doping.

England manager takes bold approach to World Cup qualifying tie

Taylor looks to Wright for daring and goals

FROM ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
IN IZMIR, TURKEY

THE bolder side of Graham Taylor's nature dares to contemplate a four-goal victory for England over Turkey in the World Cup qualifying tournament here tonight. That is the margin England require to lead group two and, facing individuals who may be swift on the ground and embarrassingly comfortable on the ball, Taylor nevertheless expects to exploit the monumental inferiority complex of a Turkish nation that has never scored a goal against England while conceding 27.

The mood is not complacent

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norway	3	1	0	1	15	6	7
Holland	5	3	1	1	15	6	7
England	3	2	1	0	11	1	1
Poland	5	1	0	4	3	12	3
Turkey	6	1	1	4	6	12	3
San Marino	6	0	1	5	1	28	1

RESULTS: Norway 10, San Marino 0; Norway 2, Holland 1; Poland 0, San Marino 0; Norway 2, Poland 2; England 1, Norway 2; Turkey 0, San Marino 1; England 4, Turkey 0; Turkey 1, Holland 0; San Marino 0; Holland 3, Turkey 1; San Marino 0; Turkey 0; Holland 6, San Marino 0.

REMAINING FIXTURES: Today: Turkey v England; Apr 28: England v Holland; Norway v Turkey; Poland v San Marino; May 19: San Marino v Poland; May 29: Poland v England; Jun 8: Norway v England; Jun 8: Holland v Norway; Sep 8: England v Poland; Sep 22: San Marino v Holland; Norway v Poland; Oct 12: Holland v England; Poland v Norway; Oct 27: Turkey v Poland; Nov 10: Turkey v Norway; Nov 18: San Marino v England; Nov 17: Poland v Holland.

Taylor, after his harrowing experiences at the European championship last summer, will surely never be guilty of that — but there is admirable buoyancy and unity within his camp now and while the manager can set the mood, it is, of course, players who must do the deed. Their genuine belief is set by the example of the captain, David Platt, who insists England will "press all over the pitch, not by getting it into areas where goals are scored."

Taylor, meanwhile, expresses something more positive, more daring. "For better or worse, this is now my squad," he said assertively. "There are one or two

characters in this group — players who need managing — and I'm happy with that." Characters is his euphemism for what the former Brazilian coach, João Saldanha, called "bandits", those performers who are brimful of talent but have tempestuous natures that need many a managerial broadside to control.

Paul Gascoigne and Paul Ince are examples, so is Ian Wright. In seven matches, he has not yet scored for England, yet his persistence in attacking defenders and in creating goals for others has deeply impressed his manager as the leader of England's front line.

Wright, sometimes so frustratingly intense in action, such a handful for referees, is pleasingly relaxed off the field. There is an echo of Frank Bruno in his manner and his speech. He comes to international football after a career which began with five years with a club called Ten-Embee in the Kent Border League. There is restless hunger in him, but gradually a knowing feeling that "I don't mind opponents putting two men on me, it only leaves room for others to exploit."

When, rather than if, Wright opens his scoring account for England, he promised he will do "a maranga dance". Whatever that is he cannot say: the words tumble out instinctively, the way he plays.

"I rushed two chances against Norway," he admitted. "But I will take the chances when they come and once one goes in, it will open up. I quite like the pressure situations, being villain or hero, if you know what I mean? I like being in positions to hold that kind of destiny in my own hands."

But Wright, so often put into a position of individual accountability, is Taylor's man in his appreciation of quality embracing the team. "The biggest thing we have got in this England squad is unity," he insisted. "We laugh together, we would do anything,



Leading from the front: Platt, with Dixon, left, and Ince in support, takes charge during training yesterday

even die for one another and when you have that, whether you're playing for England or in the Diadora League, it is the hardest thing to combat."

An engaging talker, complete with his London accent, is Wright. But then his position, both tonight and for Arsenal in the FA Cup semi-final against Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday, the talking is best done by the single and most elusive art in the game — goalscoring.

It is a lost art as far as the Turks are concerned. They too have volatility. Their best forward is Tarju Colak, a problem player hounded by society first because of a scandalous love affair with a voluptuous actress and now out of jail on

ball while appealing against a nine-year jail sentence for smuggling a Mercedes into his homeland.

Yet while free, Colak still scores goals for Fenerbahce more prolifically than any other Turk. His national team manager, the German Sepp Piontek, whose own job is under stress, ignores the errant playboy.

They play this evening in a stadium built for 70,000 people, but with low morale and expectation, with live television coverage, it is likely to be only a third full. The gaps in the stands, and those England will press for in the defence, may show that in terms of team-work and physique, England can indeed overcome.

FA charges Souness after incident with linesman

GRAEME Souness, the manager of Liverpool, has been charged with bringing the game into disrepute by the Football Association after allegedly making abusive comments to a linesman during last week's 1-1 draw at Crystal Palace.

The charge follows a report from the referee at the game, Roger Dillkes, who banished Souness from the dugout for the last eight minutes. If he is found guilty, he faces the prospect of a hefty fine and the fourth touchline ban of his managerial career following

two suspensions during his time at Rangers and a current ban from UEFA, European football's governing body.

The Manchester United forward, Eric Cantona, was fined £1,000 yesterday after being found guilty by the FA of spitting at supporters following the Premier League match at Leeds United last month. A disciplinary commission also warned him about his future conduct after the incident, which happened when Cantona was walking to the dressing rooms after the game.

Courage fills rugby coffers with £7m

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

RUGBY union's sustained appeal, even in times of recession, was emphasised yesterday when the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and Courage Ltd announced what is believed to be the biggest sponsorship agreement in world rugby.

The brewing company will put £7 million into English club rugby over the next four years, continuing its support of the league system which it has backed since its inception in 1987. In domestic sporting terms, it is second only to the £12 million agreed in February in a four-year deal between the Football Association Premier League and Bass, and proportionately greater than the seven-year agreement worth £11 million between snooker and Embassy.

Despite serious competition from four other companies, three of them brewers, Courage maintained their hold on a competition which has become synonymous with the rise of English rugby. The deal brings to £11 million the amount they have invested: £1.6 million in the initial three-year period and £2.4 million in the second three years.

The change to a four-year agreement was partly to hold off the opposition and partly to cover the three-year television contract that the four home unions will negotiate next year. Television coverage forms a significant part of the deal, with safeguards being written into the contract.

"We have specified minimum levels of coverage that we would expect and express

the hope that coverage of club rugby should be extended progressively over the four-year period," Mike Reynolds, Courage's executive director for public affairs, said. "We are in no way compromising the RFU or the home unions, but it's right to protect our own position."

Reynolds believes live coverage of club rugby is inevitable, although the RFU believes there will always be resistance to live exposure on Saturdays and have been chary at the possibility of Sunday rugby, with its implied extra demands on players.

It was emphasised that the bulk of the £7 million will filter throughout the 1,187 clubs involved in the Courage championship. The sum does not include service or promotional charges, as does, for example, the £3.1 million agreement made in September between the Welsh Rugby Union and Whitbread for the Heineken League. Nor, in England, does any financial element go towards the international squad, whereas in Wales a small proportion goes each year to the Players' Trust.

Courage will receive greater exposure because of the introduction of home and away league matches. Of next season's 36 weeks, 24 will include league fixtures.

"There are few good sponsors around and those that do exist command premium prices," Reynolds said. "This is a good sponsorship. We wanted to retain it and paid to do so, with additional benefits that satisfy us and rugby."

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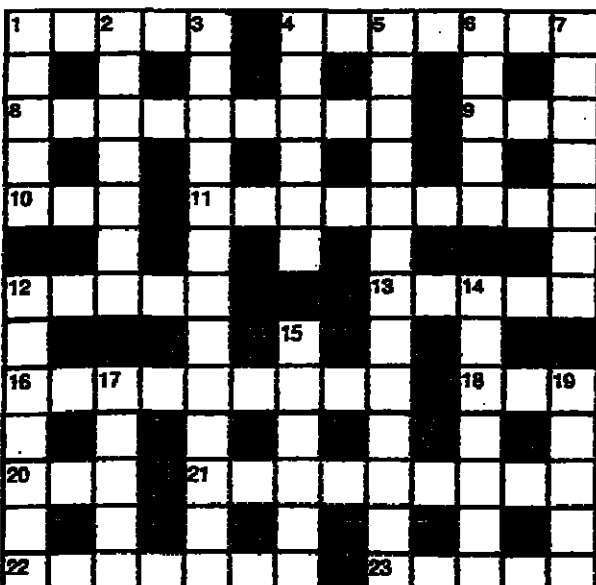
CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 3059

ACROSS

- 1 Bitterly pungent (5)
- 4 Prehistoric human (7)
- 8 Happening (9)
- 9 Dish (3)
- 10 Crank (3)
- 11 Awkward corner (5,4)
- 12 Foolish act (5)
- 13 Go over again (5)
- 16 British trident warrior (9)
- 18 Raincoat (3)
- 20 Tease (3)
- 21 Initiate (9)
- 22 Lasts (7)
- 23 Stone worker (5)

DOWN

- 1 Oak seed (5)
- 2 Solo programme (7)
- 3 Road films actress (7,6)
- 4 Cower (6)
- 5 Non meat-eating doctrine (13)
- 6 Wipe clean (3,2)
- 7 Without ceasing (7)
- 12 Russian egg jeweller (7)
- 14 Direction finder (7)
- 15 Smalls (6)
- 17 Retired for night (2,3)
- 19 Unsold (5)

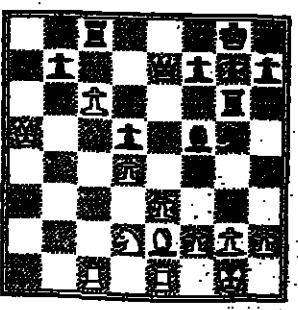


STARTING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Grooten — Wijnants, Wijk aan Zee 1993. White is proceeding merrily with his queenside attack, quite oblivious to the storm brewing on the other wing. Black's following combination must have come as a rude awakening. What did he play?

Solution on page 36



WORD-WATCHING

By PHILIP HOWARD

- TÊTE-BÊCHE
a. A large edible scallop.
b. A dark-brown colour.
c. An upside-down stamp.
- SUDDER
a. Sugar beet pulp.
b. To withdraw in echelon.
c. Chief or supreme.

- INDOLIC
a. Intestinal putrefaction.
b. Living within walls.
c. Indo-Portuguese.
- CATANANCHE
a. One of the Fates.
b. A blue flower.
c. A torture boot.

Answers on page 36

SOLUTIONS TO NO 3059

- ACROSS: 1 Usable 5 Run off 8 Ring 9 Teamwork
10 Simple 12 Army 15 Quick thinking 16 Blah
17 Hitman 19 Shortage 21 Rude 22 Uplust 23 Dampen
- DOWN: 2 Spiritual 3 Bug 4 Entreaty 5 Real 6 Newmarket 7 Far 11 Packhorse 13 Manhandle 14 Withheld 18 Vast 20 Hip 21 Run

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